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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT

14 April 1994-1 May 1995

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1995

SUPPLEMENT No. 17

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ALTID	Asian land transport infrastructure development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ESCAP/POC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FADINAP	ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	geographic information systems
GNP	gross national product
GSP	generalized system of preferences
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICP	International Comparison Programme
IFA	International Fertilizer Industry Association
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
NFIS	Network of Fertilizer Information Systems
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
ODA	official development assistance

ABBREVIATIONS (*continued*)

OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PACE-E	Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment
POPIN	Population Information Network
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SEATRADC	Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SNA	United Nations System of National Accounts
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	South Pacific Commission
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TISNET	Regional Trade Information Network
TRISHNET	Network of Research, Training and Information Institutes on Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WASME	World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 14 April 1994 to 1 May 1995, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the twelfth meeting of its fifty-first session on 1 May 1995.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission

2. At the first meeting of its fifty-first session, the Commission approved the following draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action.

Inclusion of the Russian Federation in paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Noting* that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has recommended the inclusion of the Russian Federation in paragraph 2, in addition to existing paragraph 3, of the terms of reference of the Commission, with the objective of enabling the appropriate programme activities of the Commission to be extended to that country, particularly its Siberian and far-eastern regions,

"*Decides* to amend paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly."

Venue of the fifty-second session of the Commission

3. At its twelfth meeting, on 1 May 1995, the Commission decided to hold its fifty-second session in Bangkok, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The theme topic would be "Sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Asia and the Pacific".

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

51/1. Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

51/2. Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific

51/3. Organization of annual sessions of the Commission

51/4. Agenda for Action on S cial Development in the ESCAP Region

51/5. Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT)

51/6. Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century

51/7. Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific

51/8. Implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific

51/9. Mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

51/10. Regional cooperation for the eradication of the demand for drugs subject to abuse and related problems

51/11. Regional cooperation on space applications for environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

51/12. Strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTIETH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

4. During the period under review, the following subsidiary bodies convened meetings: the Committees on Environment and Sustainable Development, and on Statistics, and the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. The Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, and the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development were convened. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III to the present report. The activities of the subsidiary bodies since the fiftieth session of the Commission are highlighted below. Publications, meetings and advisory services under each subprogramme are listed in the annex to this chapter.

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Agriculture and rural development

5. The ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP) continued its support to the programme on regional economic cooperation through the dissemination of information on the most recent market and trade developments in the agro-chemicals sector. A monthly bulletin and fortnightly fax/telex services to Governments and national fertilizer markets in the region on recent market and trade developments facilitated informed decision-making. Those services have been actively sought by the developing countries in the region, particularly as they entered the international fertilizer markets.

Development issues and policies

6. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1995* covered major recent trends in the world economy and their relevance to developments in the ESCAP region. The *Survey* reviewed macroeconomic performance and policies, the state of international trade and balance-of-payments performance, and the short-term prospects of the economies of the region. Policies for and implementation of reforms and liberalization of the financial sector in the region, their economic impact and further policy implications were analysed. The subject of social security was analysed with reference to existing and emerging social needs, available measures and ways and means to meet needs more fully; policy issues were highlighted.

7. The inaugural issue of the *Asia-Pacific Development Journal* included studies on regional economic developments and prospects and reviewed development issues and problems of concern to the region.

8. Substantive inputs were provided to the Committee for the review of the economic situation and outlook in the region, prospects for regional economic cooperation through subregional growth zones, and development strategies and policies in the ESCAP region, with special reference to their implications for strengthening regional cooperation.

9. Activities to assist the disadvantaged economies in transition and implement resolution 48/8 of 23 April 1992 on problems faced in those economies have concentrated on policy issues, complemented by training programmes in areas such as macroeconomic stabilization, decentralization, restructuring and reform of State enterprises. The regional Seminar on Macroeconomic Reform in Disadvantaged Economies in Transition, held in November 1994, reviewed experience gained by various countries that could serve as a valuable guide for future action. The experience of Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan in implementing economic reform policies was highlighted in the publication *Macroeconomic Reform Policies in the Disadvantaged Economies in Transition*.

10. Among other activities, the ESCAP/World Bank Seminar on East/South-East Asian Growth Experience was convened in May 1994. The Seminar considered the factors that underlay the rapid growth of those economies, the sustainability of their growth process, and lessons that could be replicated in other developing countries.

11. The Expert Group Meeting on Recent Experience in Tax System Reforms with Special Reference to the Impact on Income Distribution and Poverty, held in July 1994, made recommendations for the rationalization and enhancement of efficiency of tax system reforms to fulfil the objectives of growth and equity and to contribute towards the alleviation of poverty in the developing countries.

Industrial and technological development

12. The programme focused on the implementation of the mandates provided by the Seoul Plan of Action

for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific, the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer, and Agenda 21. It included a range of activities aimed at establishing and strengthening forward-looking institutional and policy infrastructure for industrial and technological development, strengthening the endogenous industrial and technological capabilities of member States to facilitate business, trade and technology-related investments, and monitoring major breakthroughs in science and technology, including environmentally sound technology.

13. Activities to strengthen the institutional infrastructure and endogenous capabilities for industry and technology included regional symposia, workshops and other meetings on such subjects as sustainable industrial development and restructuring; strengthening of technological capacity in the export of manufactures; privatization, investment promotion and industrial relocation; participation of women in manufacturing; patent laws and the legal aspects of technology transfer; consultancy services, and food processing industries. TCDC activities involved consultancy for the export of manufactured goods, and metrology.

14. An ESCAP/UNIDO joint programming meeting was held in Vienna in August 1994. Priority areas identified for cooperation and joint activities included industrial and technological development and restructuring; food processing and food quality management technology; information technology; private sector development and privatization; skills development, including women's participation in industry and technology; development of small and medium industries; and standardization and quality control.

International trade and development finance

15. As requested, the secretariat reported to the Commission at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, as well as on implementation of the action programmes for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment and in investment-related technology transfer. The fifth and sixth meetings of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation reviewed and gave further direction to the work of the secretariat in strengthening regional economic cooperation. The Steering Group also considered studies reviewing the patterns and prospects for intraregional trade at a disaggregated level, and analysing the sectoral flows of foreign direct investment in the region. Issues relating to the role of subregional growth zones in promoting regional economic cooperation, the financing of infrastructure development, and the relocation of industries and industrial complementarities, also received special attention from the Steering Group.

16. The Expert Group Meeting on Inter-subregional Cooperation in Trade and Investment, held in September 1994, included participation from the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Pacific Forum. The Meeting focused on the implications of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations for subregional trading arrangements. Its conclusions and recommendations were endorsed at the Second Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations, held in January 1995.

17. As a follow-up to the decision of the Government of China to accede to the Bangkok Agreement, preparatory work for tariff negotiations was initiated. Tariff schedules have been exchanged between China and the other members, to facilitate the drawing up of request-and-offer lists. At the fifteenth session of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement, held in February 1995, members decided to launch the Third Round of Negotiations as soon as possible in order to respond to challenges and opportunities that have emerged from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Agriculture and rural development

18. Under the ESCAP/FAO project on sustainable agricultural development strategies for the least developed countries, assistance was provided to the participating countries. The expert group meeting on the subject, held in May 1994, considered current efforts of national development planning for the primary sector and incorporation of sustainability issues in planning systems. The guidelines for national studies and seminars were discussed.

19. The database on pesticides and the environment was completed and installed in facilities of the participating countries and agencies, the scientific counterparts of the project and the donors. It includes more than 500 crops, 2,000 pests, 1,000 active ingredients, 7,000 products and 12,000 use recommendations in six South-East Asian countries. It constitutes a powerful tool for organizations responsible for pesticide registration and control, for government agencies responsible for formulating recommendations for pesticide use, for human and animal health installations, and for environmental monitoring and protection agencies. An evaluation and planning workshop for the database project was held in September 1994. The meeting strongly recommended a thematic and geographical extension of the database;

consequently, an extension was requested and granted by the donors, the Commission of the European Union and France, to include additional countries in the database, add more information on non-chemical and integrated-pest-management methods of crop protection, and enhance the user-friendliness of the database operating programme.

20. *Agro-pesticides — Properties and Functions in Integrated Crop Protection* was revised: the previous edition had been used as a textbook throughout the developing countries for a decade. The *Illustrated Pesticide Safety Guide* was translated into Fijian and Hindustani (both for Fiji), Bislama (for Vanuatu) and Samoan; 4,000 copies were sent to the counterpart offices in the respective countries for distribution to farmers and village-level pesticide distributors. That brought the total circulation to nearly 80,000 copies in 16 languages.

21. FADINAP continued to provide assistance to its member countries through the provision of information, training and advisory services. National training workshops were organized in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the South Pacific and Viet Nam, and various regional meetings and training activities were convened.

Development issues and policies

22. The activities of the secretariat have concentrated on developing analytical and operational modalities for integrating sustainable development considerations into macroeconomic decision-making and management. Background research has begun on issues concerned with decision-making processes and policy tools used for such integration; a project in this area has been developed and is awaiting funding. Conceptual work has commenced on a thematic monograph on more effective approaches to integrating sustainable development and environment concerns.

Energy

23. Two reports were prepared and presented to the Committee at its second session. Various publications were produced.

24. Operational activities continued, mainly in connection with the execution of the UNDP-funded Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment (PACE-E). As of February 1995, 13 activities, including training courses, workshops and expert meetings, had been conducted in the six components of PACE-E: one in energy-environment planning; six in coal development and utilization; one in natural gas and petroleum development; one in rural energy-environment development; three in conservation and efficiency; and one in electric power system management. In addition, five activities addressed the need for increased national capability to provide energy consultation services, and several missions provided advisory services related to energy conservation and renewable energy.

25. Five of the above 13 activities were organized by the ESCAP secretariat. In collaboration with UNDP, the first meeting of the PACE-E Energy-Environment Advisory Group was held in Colombo in December 1994. The secretariat participated in various meetings on energy development and management topics, including meetings organized by UNEP and by commercial companies.

Environment

26. Activities focused mainly upon implementation of Agenda 21 and the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, in line with the Framework of Regional Action for Sustainable Development of 1993. The ESCAP report on the plan of implementation of Agenda 21 was submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session held in May 1994. A summary of the report was submitted as part of the documentation on regional cooperation to the Economic and Social Council at its session in June 1994.

27. The secretariat commenced preparatory activities for the 1995 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development and the NGO/media symposium. The High-level Meeting on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in February 1995, discussed the regional action programme and the issues to be included in the proposed ministerial declaration. Preparations were being made for supporting activities, such as the private sector forum, the exhibition of paintings and photographs and the clean technology exhibition. Preparation of the 1995 state of the environment report, to be presented to the Conference, was under way.

28. Subregional cooperation was enhanced with further consultation at the senior official level in the development of the North-East Asian environmental programme. In preparation for the Ministerial Conference, consultations are continuing with subregional organizations.

29. National capacity-building for environmentally sound and sustainable development was supported through advisory and technical services and the development of guidelines and manuals. Sectoral work continued on hazardous waste control; pollution monitoring systems; natural resources accounting; capacity-building in integrated coastal zone management in South Asian seas; marine environment in the South China seas; climate change; ecotourism; and planning for emerging issues such as trade and the environment, particularly in Indo-China. National plans to combat desertification for China and the Islamic Republic of Iran were being prepared and that for Mongolia was developed in conjunction with UNEP as part of the

Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP) project. Of particular importance was the secretariat's contribution to the global conventions on desertification and biodiversity.

30. Environmental awareness activities continued, with support to the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists and the publication of two handbooks on the roles of youth and women in the implementation of the Universal Code of Environmental Conduct.

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

31. In the area of mineral resources, activities focused on the evaluation of geologic and mineral resource potential in selected least developed countries, and on regional and subregional assessment of industrial non-metallic minerals potential, including construction materials. Activities promoting foreign investment in the mining industry concentrated on assistance in evolving national mineral development strategies and policy orientation with special reference to regulatory frameworks and related investment regimes in Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. At the subregional and regional levels, those activities were complemented by three proposed investment-oriented projects targeted at the countries of North-East Asia and South-East Asia, as well as the countries of the ECO subregion.

32. Activities on the environmental management of mineral resources development included the preparation of regional studies on the exploitation and use of mineral and metallurgical waste, and on confinement of toxic waste in underground spaces, as well as participation in and preparation for regional and national seminars and workshops on environmental policies and guidelines relevant to the mining industry.

33. Activities on the integration of geoscientific data into land-use and urban planning included two regional expert group meetings; advisory missions; the issuance of publications; and preparatory work for two training activities, to be held in Shanghai and Bangkok in 1995 under the project on environmental and urban geology for the sustainable development of new economic zones and fast-growing cities.

34. In the area of marine affairs, the secretariat actively followed developments that led to the coming into force on 16 November 1994 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which created a new ocean regime. Activities on assessment, development and management of non-living resources in the coastal zones of the Asian and Pacific region continued, through the issuance of a publication on integrated coastal zone management in Asia and the preparation of a subregional study on assessment of mineral/petroleum resource potential in the countries of North-East Asia.

35. Requests for advisory services in the area of water resources development and management have increased; the secretariat continued to provide such services. As a follow-up to the project on the assessment of forecasting techniques and preparedness measures, advisory missions on water-related natural disaster reduction were conducted. Roving seminars on comprehensive flood loss prevention and management were organized in Fiji, India and Samoa. A group training/study tour to review developments in the international river basins in Asia was organized for experts from five riparian countries of the Aral Sea basin. Personnel of the water utility in Phnom Penh were trained, and the 1995 work plan of the rehabilitation project for water utilities in Cambodia was finalized with ESCAP assistance. The Expert Group Meeting on Protection of Water Resources, Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystems, held in October 1994, reviewed and adopted guidelines based on a study prepared by the secretariat.

Space technology applications

36. The first Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, and a senior officials' meeting that preceded the Conference, were hosted by the Government of China in Beijing in September 1994. The Conference adopted the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in, and the Action Plan on, Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. A symposium was held in parallel with the Ministerial Conference.

37. The Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region held their annual meeting in May 1994, which was followed by the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee. Sixteen member countries of the region participated in reviewing the work plan of the Regional Remote Sensing Programme.

38. The Regional Remote Sensing Seminar on Tropical Ecosystem Management, held in August 1994, recognized the importance of monitoring the ecological status of the natural environment on a sequential basis, and particularly considered the interaction between remote sensing scientists and policy planners on the one hand and ecologists on the other. The Regional Seminar on Integrated Application of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Land and Water Resources Management, held in November 1994, back-to-back with the fifteenth Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, concentrated on the use of the technology for land and water resources management.

39. The Government of China continued to offer long-term training for fellows from ESCAP members, including three from the Democratic People's Republic

of Korea and one from Myanmar. A study tour to China and Thailand was organized for three senior scientists from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In addition, a two-month training course, providing hands-on experience on the use of geographic information systems (GIS)/remote sensing for land-use mapping, was held in Indonesia.

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agriculture and rural development

40. Country studies on the effects of price liberalization and market reform on poverty of rural communities and farm families were initiated in China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam. The studies are to be finalized and their outcomes considered in national workshops to be convened in the respective countries in 1995.

41. Activities under a project on utilization of agricultural biomass for sustainable rural development, in line with recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Human Resources Development for Utilization of Agricultural Residues as Energy Source held in China in 1993, were initiated with funding provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea.

42. The joint ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment commenced in June 1994. Suitable government agencies, rural banking institutions and NGOs have agreed to conduct pilot projects in Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Training workshops on the "success-case-replication" methodology on income-earning activities were held in the Philippines and Viet Nam.

Development issues and policies

43. In response to the recommendations of the Committee at its first session, activities have focused on developing an analytical basis and operational modalities for fostering exchange of experience in the formulation and implementation of policies for poverty alleviation.

44. To assist in this work, two projects were developed, funding for the implementation of which is expected to be forthcoming in 1995. The first is the ESCAP component of the UNDP regional poverty programme for Asia and the Pacific. This component concerns developing "sister district" arrangements in the seven countries of SAARC, aimed at fostering better understanding of the causes, nature and consequences of poverty and identifying policies to help empower the poor through district-level activities and exchange of experience. Preparatory work for its implementation has begun.

45. Preparations were also under way for implementation of a project on the role of the informal service sector in poverty alleviation, aimed at improving the productivity of workers in that sector. Increased attention was also given to analytical research on the correlates of poverty, poverty in the informal service sector, and the impact of target group programmes on employment and poverty alleviation.

Human resources development

46. At its fiftieth session, the Commission chose as the theme topic for its fifty-first session "Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific". The secretariat undertook a regional study on the theme topic for presentation to the Commission at its fifty-first session. The study examined the relations between human resources development, economic growth and social progress in the ESCAP region; it reviewed the human resources development endowment of the region and the emerging challenges it was facing, and identified strategic areas for regional cooperation and their implementation modalities. As part of its preparation of the theme study, the secretariat convened the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development in November 1994. The Panel considered proposals on specific action for regional cooperation in human resources development as well as modalities for achieving such cooperation.

47. In support of the emphasis in the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region on NGOs as a means of promoting human resources development, a study on fiscal incentives to support their growth and viability was published.

48. In pursuance of Commission resolution 50/7 of 13 April 1994 on an update of the Jakarta Plan of Action, the secretariat prepared a register of leading multidisciplinary development policy research institutes in the region, preparatory to a proposed project on the strengthening of regional cooperation among centres of excellence for human resources development.

49. As part of a project to promote the role of the private sector in human resources development, the secretariat was preparing a training manual. The manual would focus on the Business Initiative for Rural Development (BIRD) methodology, which had successfully enlisted business firms in undertaking skills training programmes for the rural poor.

50. The theme for the third round of the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award was "Women in extreme poverty". The jury reviewed over 40 applications from 16 countries and selected the winner.

51. With respect to youth and human resources development, the secretariat initiated a survey of youth

policies and programmes in the region in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/85 of 16 December 1992 and in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year. A series of national and subregional training workshops for youth workers was initiated, focusing on the strengthening of entrepreneurial skills for establishing and operating micro-level enterprises.

52. Other major activities aimed at strengthening the role of youth organizations in the promotion of functional literacy, especially among girls and young women. Using a curriculum developed at a South Asian Training-of-Trainers Workshop for the Promotion of Functional Literacy among Girls and Young Women, held in 1992, national and local-level workshops for youth trainers were conducted in five South Asian countries. An evaluation meeting of the project on the role of youth organizations in the promotion of functional literacy was convened in Colombo in November 1994.

Human settlements

53. Activities undertaken since the fiftieth session of the Commission have focused on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held in October-November 1993, and subsequently endorsed by the Commission.

54. The report *State of Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific 1993*, which was prepared for the Ministerial Conference, was in such demand that another 500 copies were printed.

55. The Network of Training, Research and Information Institutes in Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific continued to expand its membership: the directory recently published by ESCAP listed 78 institutes from 19 countries and areas. The Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements hosted the International Workshop on the Establishment of a Human Settlements Database in Asia and the Pacific, and a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Network, in December 1994.

56. Close cooperation continued with the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) and a number of joint activities were implemented: those included, in addition to seminars and advisory services, work on guidelines for the disposal of solid wastes through affordable and environmentally sound means and establishment of a CITYNET needs and resources data bank.

57. As recommended in the Regional Action Plan, an Inter-organizational Committee on Urbanization was established with the Executive Secretary of ESCAP as Chairman, a senior official of UNDP as Vice-Chairman, and membership which included agencies, NGOs and donor countries active in the urban sector. It adopted terms of reference which focused on cooperation in and coordination of projects and programmes undertaken by its members, aimed at making them more efficient and maximizing their impact.

Population

58. In the area of population, the long-term objectives were to promote an integrated approach in population planning within the overall framework of the social and economic development of the region; to assist in the promotion of cooperation and exchange of experience among ESCAP members and associate members in policy and programme formulation and implementation; and to strengthen the capability of Governments to acquire, analyse, disseminate and utilize population data and information in support of policy formulation and programme implementation.

59. In its activities on population, the secretariat continued to implement several regional research projects concerning poverty alleviation in the areas of population ageing, migration and urbanization, women's role and status and development, population data for local development, and population information processing and dissemination. The research aimed at identifying specific approaches to integrated policy formulation on population and development.

60. With regard to technical assistance, the secretariat has adopted various approaches for improving the technical skills knowledge of government officials and other professionals working in the field of population.

61. Advisory services, technical backstopping, study tours, training courses and workshops and grants were provided to members of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN) to assist them in processing and disseminating data and information more efficiently to target audiences in support of population policy formulation and programme implementation. An active publications programme produced periodicals to help in meeting the population information needs of the region. The secretariat expanded its use of on-line telecommunication to access population information from United Nations and other services on the global Internet, and disseminate population information from the region to users throughout the world.

Social development

62. The most significant accomplishment of the secretariat in the field of social development was the organization of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held in Manila in October 1994. That Conference adopted the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

63. In adopting the Declaration, the Governments of the ESCAP region took a leading position in global efforts to enhance social progress and expressed their firm commitment to accord priority to social development through effective policies, sound measures, appropriate programmes and adequate resources.

64. The Agenda for Action was closely linked to and built on the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond adopted in 1991. It addressed the three core issues for the World Summit for Social Development: poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration. It did so by identifying specific, time-bound goals and targets and agreeing on concerted action towards their attainment. Those goals and targets reinforced and built on those contained in existing international agreements and standards.

65. The secretariat ensured that the Manila Declaration and the Agenda for Action, as a definitive statement of the regional policy position on social development, was submitted to the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

66. The secretariat prepared a number of documents to guide the deliberations at the Ministerial Conference. Several information documents and background publications were also prepared, including *Asian and Pacific Success Stories in Social Development*, and two issues of the *Social Development Newsletter*, one focusing on the outcome of the fiftieth session of the Commission and the other on ESCAP preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

67. The secretariat continued to implement projects on enhancement of social protection for the poor in the ESCAP region, and the role of NGOs in the implementation of the Social Development Agenda for the ESCAP Region.

68. With respect to elderly persons, the secretariat provided a substantive contribution to a regional workshop for policy makers on social services for the elderly; assisted NGOs in survey work and the development of action plans on ageing issues; and continued implementation of regional projects on comprehensive national policies on ageing.

69. Thirty Governments of the region joined as signatories to the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region.

70. The secretariat continued implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. The main activities undertaken included: development and strengthening of self-help organizations of people with disabilities; promotion of barrier-free built environments; and exchange of information on the indigenous production and distribution of assistive devices.

71. With regard to drug abuse and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, secretariat activities in training, exchange, collection and dissemination of information, and TCDC, focused on community-based approaches. All activities were closely coordinated with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and intergovernmental organizations such as the Colombo Plan Bureau and the ASEAN and SAARC secretariats.

72. In response to the issue of rising crime and juvenile delinquency throughout much of the region, the secretariat provided advisory services on upgrading prison administration; classification systems to separate youth offenders from hardened criminals; the strengthening of juvenile justice administration systems for a more proactive approach; and improving the methodology for data collection.

Women in development

73. The most important accomplishment of the secretariat in the field of women in development was the organization of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development in Jakarta in June 1994. The senior officials, at their meeting preceding the Conference, reviewed the progress made and problems faced in implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The Ministers adopted the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific. That Declaration is intended to serve as the main regional input to the Fourth World Conference on women, to be held in Beijing in September 1995. An exhibition on women in Asia and the Pacific was held during the Ministerial Conference.

74. With a view to accelerating implementation of the Jakarta Declaration, ESCAP organized the Regional Meeting of National Coordinating Bodies of NGOs in November-December 1994, in collaboration with the Asia and the Pacific NGO working group.

75. The Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women was convened in December 1994, in collaboration with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. The Meeting identified problems in implementing the Jakarta Declaration in each participating country, discussed ways to overcome them, and formulated recommendations for strengthening the national machineries for the advancement of women.

76. The Training Course on Entrepreneurship for Women was organized in January 1995 in collaboration with the Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

77. National workshops on women's information networks were organized in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Papua New Guinea. As part of the Women's

Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP) activities, the Jakarta Declaration and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies were translated into local languages in India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal. Databases on NGOs and women's periodicals were developed in India, Nepal and the Philippines. Four national workshops, one each on water, energy, fisheries and education, were convened in Sri Lanka to train concerned government officials and representatives of NGOs in integrating women's concerns into development planning in the four sectors. Under the project on promotion of legal awareness among women, a national seminar and two camps were organized in India in December 1994.

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

78. In compliance with Commission resolution 50/2 of 13 April 1994, the draft action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific was submitted to the fifth and sixth meetings of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and to the Committee. It was also reviewed by the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific and to the Inter-agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, at its third session, both convened in November 1994. After each of those meetings, suggested refinements and improvements were incorporated. The full text of the revised document has been submitted to the Commission under item 9(b).

79. The secretariat continued the implementation of the integrated project on Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID), in accordance with the implementation strategy and the action plan for 1994-1995 approved by the Commission at its fiftieth session. Missions visited selected Asian Republics in preparation for a study on the development of a highway network in the Asian Republics. A draft study on developing land transport linkages from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to seaports of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan in the south, and those of China in the east, was prepared and forwarded to the concerned countries for comments and clearance. Activities for phase I (ASEAN) for assisting South-East Asian countries in designing their sectors of the Trans-Asian Railway network and determining route standards and requirements, as well as promoting rail transport facilitation, were completed. A draft report of a feasibility study on connecting the rail networks of China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the Korean peninsula was completed.

80. The subregional Seminar on the Implications of Accession to Land Transport Facilitation Conventions for ECO Countries was organized in collaboration with ECO, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the International Road Transport Union (IRU), in November 1994. Preparations for a study on land transport corridors between Central Asia and Europe have been initiated.

81. Considerable work was carried out with regard to the development of multimodal transport. Activities organized in several countries increased the understanding of the benefits which could be derived from the implementation of multimodal transport, through the improvement of transport efficiency and reduced costs. A new advanced course on multimodal transport, developed by the UNCTAD secretariat, was organized for the training of trainers. A study was undertaken of the transport corridor from Singapore through Malaysia, Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, identifying the non-physical impediments to the efficient and cost-effective movement of goods.

82. Under an ESCAP/International Maritime Organization (IMO) joint programme to promote the adoption of the IMO Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic of 1965, and the implementation of its provisions, three country-level seminars and one subregional seminar were held in 1994. As a result, several countries have amended their procedures, significantly improving their inward clearance of ships.

83. A project on the commercialization and privatization of ports, as a means to increase efficiency and reduce public sector spending, was being implemented. Missions to selected countries have reviewed progress to date.

84. In promoting the environmentally friendly use of compressed natural gas (CNG) in road transport, the secretariat continued activities relating to the conversion of diesel buses to CNG in Karachi, Pakistan, as a demonstration project. *Proceedings of the Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Technologies for Road Transport, Germany, 30 August-11 September 1993*, were published.

Tourism

85. The secretariat continued to assist developing countries in deriving greater socio-economic benefits from the planned and systematic development of tourism. Efforts were directed at improving policies for tourism development, taking into consideration the socio-economic and environmental impacts. Several possibilities for increased cooperation among Governments, the private sector and international organizations in promoting tourism in the Greater Mekong subregion emerged from the Workshop on Tourism Development in Countries along the Mekong River, held in December 1994. Case-studies on the economic impact of tourism demonstrated that tourism

was a profitable industry for countries, contributing substantially to foreign exchange earnings, employment and taxation, as well as to direct, indirect and induced income. Studies on the cultural and environmental impact of tourism led to policy recommendations for managing those aspects of tourism development. Two country studies on tourism investment, one on Samoa and the other on Vanuatu, suggested measures to create a favourable climate for investment in the tourism sector. Advisory services were rendered, and data and information were disseminated through the *ESCAP Tourism Review* and the *ESCAP Tourism Newsletter*.

Committee on Statistics

Statistics

86. Activities continued to focus on the development of national statistical capabilities, the compilation and dissemination of statistical information, and the promotion of computerization in the public sector.

87. The statistical information services component of the subprogramme provided support to data users within and outside the secretariat. The four recurrent statistical information publications of the secretariat were produced regularly, while their subject-matter, scope and country coverage were expanded. Considerable resources were devoted and substantial progress was made towards establishing the ESCAP Statistical Information System (ESIS), to provide on-line access to users of statistics and indicators.

88. With regard to statistical development, assistance was provided to members and associate members in developing and improving national capabilities to produce the data required by planners, policy makers and other users. Technical assistance was provided through advisory services, technical meetings, training courses and workshops, and study tours and exchange visits between countries of the region.

89. Regional advisory and consultative services were provided directly from the secretariat in the areas of national accounts, and statistics on gender issues, environment and prices. The three advisory posts of ESCAP located in the UNFPA Country Support Teams made substantial contributions by providing advisory assistance in the area of demographic statistics. Technical meetings and workshops were organized on national accounts, gender statistics and environmental and resource accounting. Support to and collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) on statistical training and development activities continued.

90. Activities to promote computerization development in the public sector mainly concerned provision of technical information in data processing and computer applications, and the publication of a newsletter. Extrabudgetary human and financial resources received in the second half of 1994 would support an increased level of activity in 1995.

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

91. As mandated by the Commission in its resolution 49/8 of 29 April 1993 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries, preparations were initiated for a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, to assess achievements and recommend measures for more effective implementation. Work focused on enhancing effectiveness at the national level through providing support in the implementation of ongoing economic reforms directed at improving macroeconomic management, relaxing direct controls, enhancing domestic resource mobilization, promoting private sector development, reforming public enterprises, increasing the inflow of foreign investment and technology, and instituting more effective measures to address social issues, particularly with regard to alleviating poverty, human resources development and protecting the environment. Attention has also been given to the adequacy of resource flows to the least developed countries, including issues related to the quality of such resources, matching assistance to needs, and effective utilization of aid by the recipients. Studies on the mid-term review and regional input to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s were placed before the Senior Officials/Experts Meeting, and the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries at its second session.

92. Technical assistance was provided, *inter alia*, through the Expert Group Meeting on Early Development Experience of the Newly Industrializing Economies: Lessons for the Least Developed Countries of the ESCAP Region, held in September 1994, from which lessons could be derived for the least developed countries in the ESCAP region. The Meeting considered the key factors in the rapid development of the newly industrializing economies.

93. The Expert Group Meeting on Improving the Access of Women to Formal Credit and Financial Institutions in Selected Least Developed Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region, held in November 1994, stressed that experience gained by banks and NGOs in the region had confirmed that women, including poor women, were creditworthy and that financial institutions should not automatically reject them as high credit risks. Innovative banking policies that assisted in mainstreaming women into financial institutions without imposing unacceptable risks or disproportionately high administration costs on the banks were considered.

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

94. The secretariat activities in support of the Pacific island developing countries continued to focus on providing analysis, technical assistance and advisory services on critical areas affecting their development. The ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (ESCAP/POC) was strengthened; eight advisers currently provided services in such areas as development planning and policy, international trade, statistics, ports and harbours development and women in development. The staff of ESCAP/POC provided assistance to island economies in their respective areas of competence and were increasingly invited to act as resource persons at workshops, seminars and training courses in the Pacific region.

95. Increasing attention has been paid to the areas identified for further action by the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at its first and second sessions. As part of an ongoing technical assistance project executed by the secretariat, the Expert Group Meeting on the Economic Performance and Prospects of Pacific Island Economies (Phase II), held in July 1994, discussed a range of topics concerned with official development assistance, the role of government, the economic problems of the Federated States of Micronesia, and countering the activities of "get-rich operators", as well as the possible establishment of a Pacific island development bank.

96. Two technical assistance projects concerned with fostering closer trade and investment relationships with the dynamic economies of East and South-East Asia and with the provision of training in economic stabilization, liberalization and deregulation were prepared and submitted for funding.

97. The Special Body held its third session in April 1995. It reviewed and made recommendations on enhancing external trade and investment in Pacific island countries, in particular with Asia, and the implications for Pacific island States of the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in April-May 1994.

B. Other activities

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

98. The application of the TCDC modality to the implementation of projects and activities was intensified further in 1994, as was evident from the increase in the number of project activities under TCDC, and also from its injection into the various development sectors of the programme of work of the Commission. In 1994, a total of 39 TCDC operational and about 100 promotional activities were implemented by the secretariat, as compared with 26 and 80 activities, respectively, in 1993. Those activities were implemented within the framework of the six subprogrammes and financed either from extrabudgetary resources or through the United Nations regular programme for technical cooperation.

99. As regards TCDC operational activities, extrabudgetary assistance was provided by the Governments of China, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Sweden to meet the foreign exchange component. In-country costs were provided either by the host countries or agencies, respective national budgets or UNDP country indicative planning figures (IPFs), or by the participants themselves. Training workshops, seminars, study tours, field visits and exchange visits were organized in a variety of subject areas, including social issues (concerning the disabled and the elderly, youth, and drug demand reduction); water resources and water-related disasters (flood and storm forecasting); trade and investment (trade information, customs documentation, and export promotion); population information networking; technology development and transfer (food-processing technology, technology evaluation and pricing, and metrology in quality improvement); natural resources (minerals and gas); human settlements; statistics; women in development; aid coordination; and transport, communications and tourism. The least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition, continued to be the primary focus and beneficiaries of TCDC operational activities, allowing them to benefit from direct exchanges of information and experience, dissemination of techniques and know-how and cross-fertilization of ideas.

100. Two bilateral agreements under TCDC were successfully concluded: China and Uzbekistan concluded an agreement on various aspects of water resources management, involving 12 TCDC exchange visits over a time-span of four years; and Thailand and Uzbekistan reached an agreement on specific issues of water resources, with six exchange visits envisaged over three years.

101. Under the Asia-Pacific POPIN, the TCDC supplementary fund facilitated six exchange visits for population programme managers in 1994. Similarly, under the Singapore-UNDP technical cooperation programme, a number of training courses were organized in 1994 within the framework of TCDC on topics including civil aviation management, environmental health, port operations and management, information technology management, telecommunications, and computer application systems in customs documentation.

102. With the extrabudgetary resources made available by China, study tour-cum-matching exercises were organized in China for selected Pacific countries in 1994, with a view to strengthening the capabilities of

TCDC national focal points in those island countries, matching the training capacities of China with the needs and requirements of the island countries, and further strengthening cooperation between China and the subregion. Arising from the activity, China has since offered training opportunities on a TCDC basis to the Pacific countries in such areas as integrated fish farming, meat processing (Chinese and Western style), solar technologies, rural energy and energy-saving, biogas, animal science and veterinary techniques, management of modern agriculture, small-scale hydropower, rice cultivation, vegetable cultivation, environmental protection, desertification control, science and technology, and edible fungi technology. The participating island countries were able to match their requirements with a number of those training opportunities.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

103. Close cooperation was maintained with: (a) United Nations Headquarters and the Economic Commission for Europe to ensure better coordination of ESCAP activities related to regional economic cooperation providing assistance to the disadvantaged economies in transition; (b) UNCTAD, in preparing the regional input for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; and (c) UNDP, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), ILO, ADB and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), in providing assistance to the Pacific island developing economies.

Industrial and technological development

104. Cooperation with UNIDO was maintained: a joint programming meeting was held with UNIDO in July 1994 at which various activities were identified for cooperation and joint implementation. Cooperation with the United Nations Centre on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), UNCTAD, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, WIPO and ADB continued. The Inter-agency Committee on Industry and Technology was established, to ensure better coordination and cooperation.

International trade and development finance

105 Cooperation was maintained with UNDP in the implementation of the regional trade programme on strengthening capacities for growth through trade and investment under the fifth intercountry programme of UNDP, as well as with other implementing agencies, particularly UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC).

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Agriculture and rural development

106. The secretariat maintained liaison with FAO in the implementation of the joint project on sustainable agricultural development strategies for the least developed countries. FADINAP continued to provide assistance to member countries.

Energy

107. In the area of energy management and development, cooperation continued with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, particularly on the Regional Wood Energy Development Programme, and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on the inter-agency project on databases and methodologies for comparative assessment of different energy systems (DECADES). Collaboration with UNDP continued in the execution of the Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment (PACE-E). The secretariat participated in meetings organized by other United Nations bodies, including two senior expert group meetings organized by UNEP to review energy and transport policies, and a regional advisory committee meeting of the Regional Wood Energy Development Programme.

Environment

108. Regional cooperation was strengthened through the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which includes United Nations bodies, multilateral financial institutions and the subregional environmental programmes. A database of the 1994-1995 projects and programmes of the participating organizations on the follow-up to Agenda 21 was developed to serve as a mechanism for the coordination of activities. The Inter-agency Committee identified the following priority areas for implementation: assessment and monitoring of environment trends; information exchange on the implementation of Agenda 21; human resources development; and identification of indicators of environmentally sound and sustainable development. The Committee was also involved in preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, scheduled for November 1995. A steering committee of co-sponsors of the Conference, comprising ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP and ADB was constituted.

109. The secretariat collaborated with UNEP in implementing the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and

the Pacific (DESCONAP) project, and collaboration with ADB continued.

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

110. In the mineral and marine affairs sector, coordination and liaison continued with the Division of Economic Policy and Social Development of the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations Headquarters, UNCTAD, UNDP, CCOP, Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC), the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP), and the International Working Group on Urban Geology (IWGUG), through joint execution of national UNDP and regional donor projects as well as joint formulation and backstopping of other projects. Activities under the Management Board of the United Nations Programme in Natural Resources and Energy continued, as well as regular consultations on mineral resource assessment and development in selected countries.

111. In the water resources sector, coordination with other United Nations programmes was maintained, *inter alia* through the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP continued to serve as the secretariat of the Task Force, and maintained liaison with the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Water Resources, United Nations Headquarters. Most activities in the field of water resources were carried out in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. The secretariat maintained close relations with the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Secretariat, and participated in and presented a paper at the United Nations World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held in Yokohama, Japan, in May 1994. The secretariat also cooperated with WMO in providing substantive support to the work programmes and the annual sessions of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones. The secretariat collaborated with UNEP in organizing an expert meeting on the implications of Agenda 21 for integrated water management.

Space technology applications

112. The secretariat worked with FAO on the UNDP-funded project on integrated applications of GIS and remote sensing for sustainable natural resources and environmental management. ESCAP was cooperating with UNEP and FAO in formulating a long-term programme entitled "Operational Low-cost Integrated Vital Information Access (OLIVIA)".

113. The secretariat maintained regular contact with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Vienna. ESCAP and that Office were represented at a planning meeting held in Bangalore, India, for the establishment of a centre for space science and technology education in the ESCAP region.

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agriculture and rural development

114. Cooperation and collaboration among members of the Inter-agency Committee on Poverty Alleviation for Asia and the Pacific continued in the publication of the inter-agency newsletter, *Poverty Alleviation Initiatives*, and the compendium of United Nations programmes on rural poverty alleviation. Implementation of the project on market-generated rural employment continued jointly with FAO. Collaboration was maintained with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and with the ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development, among other means through the exchange of information.

Human resources development

115. The secretariat collaborated with UNESCO in two major activities: the organization of a regional training workshop on distance education as an aspect of human resources development, to be held in Beijing in October 1995, and preparation of a preliminary inventory of centres of excellence for human resources development in the ESCAP region.

116. In the preparation of the theme study on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific, the secretariat benefited from inputs provided by concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

Human settlements

Urban Management Programme for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Development Programme

117. ESCAP continued the implementation of the Intraregional Participatory Urban Management Programme, a component of the UNDP-funded Urban Management Programme for Asia and the Pacific (UMPAP).

118. A coordination mechanism for UMPAP has been set up. The fourth meeting of the Programme's steering committee held in Pokhara, Nepal, discussed the work plan and coordination issues of the various UMPAP components, which involved ESCAP, CITYNET, UNCHS, UNDP and the World Bank. The meeting also discussed an outline for self-evaluation and the time-frame for the mid-term review.

Inter-organizational Committee on Urbanization

119. The Regional Action Plan on Urbanization adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific in November 1993 had called for the establishment of an inter-organizational committee on urbanization as a mechanism for coordination and cooperation. The second meeting of the Interorganizational Committee on Urbanization was convened by the secretariat in February 1995. The meeting reviewed the progress of joint activities and preparations for the second Asia-Pacific Regional Urban Forum, to be convened late in 1995.

Population

120. Almost all the activities of the population programme were carried out with extrabudgetary support from UNFPA. The secretariat also cooperated with the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, United Nations Headquarters. The secretariat coordinated Asia-Pacific POPIN and collaborated with global POPIN at Headquarters. The secretariat served as a member of the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections.

121. Inter-agency cooperation was maintained with the population programmes of ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. The secretariat also cooperated with the regional offices of United Nations specialized agencies located in Bangkok.

Social development

122. In the areas of youth, disabled persons, the elderly, drug abuse control and social development planning, cooperation and coordination continued with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), UNEP, UNCHS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNDCP, UNFPA, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNIDO.

123. In the field of social development, cooperation was maintained with members of the Inter-agency Task Force on Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. Members of the Task Force, including ILO and WHO, provided inputs for the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held in October 1994. ADB contributed financial support to the preparations for the Conference.

124. With respect to the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, the secretariat collaborated with members of the United Nations system through the Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns. UNIFEM, ILO, UNESCO and WHO served as co-team coordinators for the development of regional initiatives to support national implementation of the Agenda for Action: ILO, for training and employment; UNESCO, for education; and WHO, for rehabilitation services and prevention for causes of disability. The secretariat consulted with UNIFEM on means of promoting the advancement of women and girls with disabilities. Concerned United Nations programmes, such as those of UNCHS, UNDP, ILO and WHO, were partners in the implementation of various regional activities of the secretariat.

125. In the field of drug demand reduction, ESCAP and UNDCP collaborated in implementing community-based activities. Discussions have been initiated with UNDP on the implementation of a regional project on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Women in development

126. Contact and cooperation were maintained with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in preparations for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, held in June 1994.

127. Collaboration continued with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, United Nations Headquarters, and the United Nations International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

128. The secretariat continued to serve as coordinator for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific. In order to provide a forum for coordination and to review the status of implementation of the programme, ESCAP convened the third session of the Inter-agency Steering Committee, which was attended by representatives of UNCTAD, UNDP, ESCWA, ILO, ICAO, World Bank, UPU, ITU, IMO and UNIDO. Observers from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin were present at the meeting. The Steering Committee assisted in the formulation of projects proposed for implementation under the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

129. Cooperation was maintained with UNCTAD in implementing activities to promote multimodal transport, with IMO in the facilitation of maritime traffic, with ILO in commercialization of ports, and with the Interim Mekong Committee in environmental impact assessment

of inland water transport projects. Activities related to Commission resolution 48/11 were implemented with the active participation of ECE and ECO.

Tourism

130. In the field of tourism, collaboration was initiated with ADB to promote tourism in the greater Mekong subregion. Contact was maintained with ILO, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and subregional tourism bodies.

Committee on Statistics

131. In the field of statistics, the secretariat maintained close working relations with the United Nations Statistical Division, UNCTAD, ECE, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, FAO, the World Bank, IMF and ADB.

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

132. Cooperation was maintained with United Nations Headquarters and ECE, to ensure better coordination of ESCAP activities related to regional economic cooperation in providing assistance to the disadvantaged economies in transition; and UNCTAD, in preparing the regional input for the mid-term global review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

133. Cooperation was maintained with UNDP, UNIFEM, ILO, ADB and SPREP, in providing assistance to the Pacific island developing economies.

Annex

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES

A. List of publications

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Agriculture and rural development

Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin, April 1994-March 1995

Development issues and policies

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 1, No. 1, June 1994 (ST/ESCAP/1418); vol. 1, No. 2, December 1994 (ST/ESCAP/1485)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1995 (ST/ESCAP/1466)

Macroeconomic Reform Policies in the Disadvantaged Economies in Transition (ST/ESCAP/1416)

Industrial and technological development

Application and Extension of the Technology Atlas (ST/ESCAP/1246)

Capabilities for Acquisition and Use of Selected Technologies; Industrial Technologies for Food Processing in Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (ST/ESCAP/1449)

Capability for Acquisition and Use of Technologies: Patent Laws, Regulations and Organizational Structure in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1483)

Major Issues in Human Resources Development Policy and Planning for Industry (ST/ESCAP/1264)

Proceedings of the ESCAP/KIST (Korean Institute of Science and Technology) High-level Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Human Resources Development Policy and Planning for Industrial Development, Seoul, 18-27 November 1991 (ST/ESCAP/1262)

Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer (ST/ESCAP/1403)

Regional Forum for Sustainable Industrial Development and Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, 6-10 December 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1373)

Technological Transaction Patterns for Enhancing Regional Cooperation: Investment-related Technology from Japan to Regional Developing Countries (ST/ESCAP/1450)

International trade and development finance

Development of Leather and Leather Products in the Developing Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region through Export Marketing and Regional Cooperation (ST/ESCAP/1428)

Foreign Investment Incentive Schemes: 10. *Pakistan* (ST/ESCAP/1412); 11. *Papua New Guinea* (ST/ESCAP/1453); 12. *Fiji* (ST/ESCAP/1463); 13. *India* (ST/ESCAP/1452); 14. *Myanmar* (ST/ESCAP/1473).

Oleochemicals in the ESCAP Region: Production, Market Structure and Trade Potential (ST/ESCAP/1382)

Pacific Harmonized Customs Tariff Schedule: Solomon Islands, revised edition (ST/ESCAP/1398); *Tuvalu*, revised edition (ST/ESCAP/1478)

Prices of Selected Asia/Pacific Products, April 1994-February 1995

Proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on an International Silk Information System (ST/ESCAP/1347)

Proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on the Expansion of Trade in Vegetable Oils for Edible Use and for the Oleochemicals Industry, Bangkok, 16-19 November 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1402)

Studies in Trade and Investment: 1. *Strengthening Capacities in Trade, Investment and the Environment for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China* (ST/ESCAP/1482); 2. *Study on Regional Cooperation in Export Credit and Export Credit Guarantees* (ST/ESCAP/1438); 3. *Expansion of Manufactured Exports by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the ESCAP Region:* vol. I, *Regional Study;* vol. II, *National Studies* (ST/ESCAP/1457); 4. *Towards a More Vibrant Pepper Economy* (E/ESCAP/1494); 5. *Sectoral Flows of Foreign Direct Investment in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1501); 6. *Review and Analysis of Intraregional Trade Flows in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1506)

TISNET Trade Information Bulletin, Nos. 269-293

Trade Review of the Bangkok Agreement, 1988-1992 (ST/ESCAP/1409)

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Agriculture and rural development

Agro-chemicals News in Brief, vol. XVII, Nos. 1-4; vol. XVIII, No. 1; Special issues: *Disadvantaged*

Economies in Transition - Central Asian Republics, China, Mongolia and Viet Nam, September 1994; *Economic Indicators for the Food and Fertilizer Sector 1992/93 and Outlook*, December 1994

ARSAP/CIRAD (International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development)/SPC Regional Agro-pesticide Index, vol. 2, *Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1379)

Calendar of Meetings on Agro-Chemicals, vol. 13, Nos. 2-4; vol. 14, No. 1

Database on Pesticides and the Environment: Organization of the Project; Data and their Format; Users' Manual (National Version); and *New Features (Regional Version)*

Directory of Sources of Fertilizer-related Information with Special Reference to Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1493)

Illustrated Pesticide Safety Guide, in Bislama (Vanuatu), Fijian and Hindustani (Fiji), and Samoan

Proceedings of the FADINAP Regional Workshop on Cooperation in Soil Testing for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 16-18 August 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1394)

Regional Information Support Service (RISS), vol. 18, Nos. 1-12; Index 1993, vol. 17, No. 13

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in Bangladesh (ST/ESCAP/1391)

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in the Islamic Republic of Iran (ST/ESCAP/1437)

Sustainable Agricultural Development in Asia and the Pacific, with Special Reference to the Least Developed Countries (ST/ESCAP/1432)

Energy

The Coming Century of Natural Gas for Asia - Objectives and Opportunities (ST/ESCAP/1431)

Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, Energy Resources Development Series No. 34 (ST/ESCAP/1357)

ESCAP Energy News, vol. XI, Nos. 1 and 2

Trends and Issues in the Development and Use of New and Renewable Sources of Energy in the Asia-Pacific Region, vols. I and II (ST/ESCAP/1317)

Waste Recycling for Sustainable Development - The Case of Obsolete Oil and Gas Production Structures in Asia-Pacific Waters (Overview), vol. I (ST/ESCAP/1389)

Environment

Case-studies on Principles and Methodologies of Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development (ST/ESCAP/1369)

1993 Citizens' Report on Sri Lanka's Environment and Development (ST/ESCAP/1367)

Citizens' Report on the State of the Environment in Bangladesh (ST/ESCAP/1366)

Environmental News Briefing (monthly), vol. 8, Nos. 3-12; vol. 9, Nos. 1 and 2

Environmentally Sound Coal Technologies: Proceedings of the Regional Workshop on Environmentally Sound Coal Technologies, Bangkok, 7-10 April 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1404)

ESCAP Environment News, vol. 11, Nos. 3 and 4; vol. 12, Nos. 1 and 2

Guidelines for the Development of a Legal and Institutional Framework to Prevent Illegal Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products and Wastes (ST/ESCAP/1375)

Natural Resource Accounting: A Framework and Guidelines (ST/ESCAP/1368)

Planning Guidelines on Coastal Environmental Management (ST/ESCAP/1316)

Range Management Manual for Asia and the Pacific

Universal Code of Environmental Conduct: The Gender Perspective (ST/ESCAP/1372)

Youth and Environment: A Handbook on the Universal Code of Environmental Conduct for Asia-Pacific Youth Organizations (ST/ESCAP/1370)

Human settlements

Healthy Cities in Asia: A Diagnostic Manual

Proceedings of the ESCAP/CITYNET Regional Seminar-cum-Study Visit on Final Disposal of Solid Wastes

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

Confluence, Nos. 22 and 23

Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region, vol. 8, *Industrial Minerals Development in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1476)

Natural Disaster Reduction in Asia and the Pacific, vol. II, *Seismic and Volcanic Hazards, Disaster Mitigation and Monitoring Systems* (ST/ESCAP/1405)

Study on Assessment of Water Resources of Member Countries and Demand by User Sectors - Japan: Water Resources and Their Use (ST/ESCAP/1362)

Waste Recycling for Sustainable Development: The Case of Obsolete Oil and Gas Production Structures in Asia-Pacific Waters (Country Perspectives), vol. II (ST/ESCAP/1424)

Water Resources Journal (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/181)

Water Resources Series, Computer Applications for Groundwater Assessment and Management (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/73)

Space technology applications

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing Journal, vol. 7, Nos. 1 and 2

Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Friendly and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1451)

Proceedings of the Consultative Group Meeting of Senior Experts Preparatory to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 1-4 March 1994 (ST/ESCAP/1390)

Remote Sensing Newsletter: vol. 12, No. 1; Supplement, September 1994; and Nos. 2-4

Report of the Regional Seminar on Tropical Ecosystem Management (ST/ESCAP/1455)

Report of the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee of the Regional Remote Sensing Programme and Proceedings of the Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1414)

Space Technology and Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific - A Compendium (ST/ESCAP/1420)

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agriculture and rural development

Agricultural Biomass for Sustainable Rural Development (ST/ESCAP/1329)

Agricultural Research Systems and Their Responses to Community Development Needs in the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1383)

Employment Strategies for the Rural Poor (ST/ESCAP/1377)

Poverty Alleviation Initiatives, vol. 3, No. 2; vol. 4, Nos. 1 and 2

Human resources development

Fiscal Incentive and Other Measures to Support the Growth and Viability of NGOs in Support of Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1465)

Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as Revised in 1994 (ST/ESCAP/1406)

Strengthening of Regional Cooperation in Human Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific, with Special Reference to the Social Implications of Sustainable Economic Growth (ST/ESCAP/1467)

Human settlements

Directory of Human Settlements Research and Training Institutes in Asia and the Pacific, 2nd edition (ST/ESCAP/1441)

Guidelines: Subnational Area Planning and Sustainable Development of Secondary Cities in Countries of Asia and the Pacific - A Methodological Approach (ST/ESCAP/1384)

Report and Proceedings of the ESCAP/CITYNET High-level Policy Seminar on Financial Management of Local Authorities (ST/ESCAP/1415)

Report and Proceedings of the ESCAP/CITYNET High-level Policy Seminar on Shelter for the Urban Poor: Interface between Governmental and Non-governmental Sectors (ST/ESCAP/1387)

Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific: Proceedings of the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 27 October-2 November 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1334)

Population

Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin, vol. 5, No. 4; vol. 6, Nos. 1-3

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 9, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1396); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1417); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1456); and No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1461)

Asian Population Studies Series:

123. *Urbanization and the Status of Women* (ST/ESCAP/1388); 126. *Selected Papers of the ESCAP/UNDP Expert Group Meeting on Population, Environment and Sustainable Development, Jomtien, Thailand, 13-18 May 1991* (ST/ESCAP/1381); 127. *Senior Officials Meeting on Targets and Goals of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development: Implementation Strategy, Bangkok, 12-14 January 1994: Report and Papers* (ST/ESCAP/1385); 130. *Issues in the Study of Rural-urban Migration: Report and Papers of the Expert Group Meeting on Trends, Patterns and Implications of Rural-urban Migration, Bangkok, 3-6 November 1992* (ST/ESCAP/1399); 131A. *Local-level Policy Development to Deal with the Consequences of Population Ageing in Bangladesh* (ST/ESCAP/1443); 131B. *Economic Potential of the Elderly and Local-level Policy Development on Consequences of Ageing in India* (ST/ESCAP/1444); 131C. *Local-level Policy Development on Consequences of Ageing in Indonesia* (ST/ESCAP/1445); 131D. *Local-level Policy Development on Consequences of Ageing: Case-study in Pakistan* (ST/ESCAP/1446); 131E. *Country Policy*

Development for the Elderly at the Local Level in Thailand (ST/ESCAP/1447); 131F. *Local-level Policy Development for Integrating the Elderly into the Development Process in Viet Nam* (ST/ESCAP/1448)

Catalogue of ESCAP Population Publications 1994 (ST/ESCAP/1458)

ESCAP Population Data Sheet 1995

Population Headliners, Nos. 229-240

Social development

Annotated Bibliography on Policy and Programme Issues in the Field of Ageing (ST/ESCAP/1471)

Asia-Pacific Fact Sheet on Drug Abuse Demand Reduction, Nos. 3 and 4

Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002: Mandates for Action (ST/ESCAP/1433)

Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development: Proceedings (ST/ESCAP/1475)

Asian and Pacific Success Stories in Social Development (ST/ESCAP/1434)

Guidelines for the Promotion of Non-handicapping Physical Environments for Disabled Persons (ST/ESCAP/1492)

Implementation of United Nations Mandates on Juvenile Justice Administration in the ESCAP Region, with a Focus on Youth in Poverty (ST/ESCAP/1430)

Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1464)

Quality of Life in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1462)

Social Development Newsletter, Nos. 30 and 31

Women in development

Directory of National Focal Points for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, 1995 (ST/ESCAP/1489)

Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1411)

Statistical Compendium on Women in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1454)

WINAP Newsletter, Nos. 14 and 15

Women in Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1993 (ST/ESCAP/1477)

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

Decade News, Nos. 4 and 5

Dredging for Development: the Status and Requirements of Dredging in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1395)

Proceedings of a Regional Seminar on Environmental Aspects of Dredging Activities in Asia and the Pacific Region, Bangkok, 25-28 October 1994 (ST/ESCAP/1480)

Proceedings of a Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Technologies for Road Transport, Germany, 30 August-11 September 1993 (ST/ESCAP/1460)

Proceedings of a Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Commercial Aspects of Railway Modernization, Tokyo, 20-27 October 1992 (ST/ESCAP/1263)

Prospects for Container Shipping and Port Development (East Asia Subregion) (ST/ESCAP/1321)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/64)

Transport Financial/Economic Planning Models, vol. 5, *Inland Water Transport Module, User Manual* (Parts I and II) (ST/ESCAP/1401)

Tourism

The Cultural Impact of International Tourism in Pakistan (ST/ESCAP/1425)

ESCAP Tourism Newsletter, No. 4

ESCAP Tourism Review: 13. *Investment and Economic Cooperation in the Tourism Sector in the Pacific Island Countries: Proceedings of a Seminar, Tokyo, 18-23 October 1993* (ST/ESCAP/1386); 14. *Tourism Training in the Asian Region: Proceedings of an Expert Group Meeting, Bangkok, 30 November-3 December 1993* (ST/ESCAP/1397); 15. *Review of Tourism Development in the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/1436)

Environmental Impact of Tourism in the Mountainous Areas of Pakistan (ST/ESCAP/1152)

Study on Foreign Investment in the Tourism Sector in Samoa (ST/ESCAP/1426)

Study on Foreign Investment in the Tourism Sector in Vanuatu (ST/ESCAP/1427)

Committee on Statistics

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures 1994 (ST/ESCAP/1470)

Development of Statistical Estimation Techniques and Procedures as a Means of Improving Timeliness of Data: Review of Methodological Studies in Six Selected Countries (ST/ESCAP/1429)

Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1988-1992 (ST/ESCAP/1469)

Government Computerization Newsletter, No. 4

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXIV, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1393); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1408); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1440); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1468)

Statistical Newsletter, No. 93

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 1994 (ST/ESCAP/1488)

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

Transport Planning for Land-locked Countries: Transit and Border-crossing Issues (ST/ESCAP/1484)

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

Pacific Island Countries: Selected Issues in Development Policy and Subregional Cooperation in the 1990s (ST/ESCAP/1487)

B. List of meetings

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

ESCAP/World Bank Seminar on East/South-East Asian Growth Experience, Bangkok, May 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Recent Experience in Tax System Reforms with Special Reference to the Impact on Income Distribution and Poverty, Bangkok, July 1994

Regional Seminar on Macroeconomic Reform in Disadvantaged Economies in Transition, Bangkok, November 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December 1994

Industrial and technological development

UNIDO/ESCAP Validation Workshop on Participation of Women in Manufacturing - Patterns, Determinants and Future Trends: Regional Analysis, Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, April 1994

Study Tour-cum-Investment Forum for Promoting Foreign Direct Investment in Least Developed Countries, Pacific Island Economies and Economies in Transition of Asia and the Pacific, Kobe, Japan, June-July 1994; Seoul, July 1994

ESCAP/FTIB (Fiji Trade and Industry Board) Joint Symposium on Foreign Direct Investment/Trade with the Private Sector of Thailand, Bangkok, July 1994

UNCTAD/ESCAP Workshop on Strengthening of Technological Capacity in the Export of Manufactures of Selected Countries of Asia and the Pacific, Colombo, September 1994

ESCAP/BOI (Board of Investment) Subregional Workshop on Matching Investment and Industrial Relocation, Manila, October 1994

ESCAP/WASME Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Development and Cooperation in Food Processing Industries, New Delhi, November 1994

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, Technical Advisory Committee (tenth session), New Delhi, November 1994; Governing Board (ninth session), New Delhi, December 1994

Advisory/Promotional Committee for the Technical and Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, December 1994

ESCAP/CDC (Consultancy Development Centre of India) International Training Programme for Export of Manufactured Goods, New Delhi, December 1994

ESCAP/BOI (Board of Investment) Subregional Workshop on Assistance in Matching Investment and Industrial Relocation, Karachi, Pakistan, January 1995

ESCAP/SSTC (State Science and Technology Commission of China) Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Regional Economic Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Skills Development, including Requirements for Adapting New and Emerging Technologies, Beijing, March 1995

International trade and development finance

AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) and Beyond: an ASEAN Perspective, Bangkok, April 1994

Fifth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT'94), Beijing, June 1994

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Seminar on Development of the Export-oriented Electronic Goods Sector in Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, June 1994

Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Business Information Exchange Association, Bangkok, June 1994

International Pepper Seminar 1994 "Towards a More Vibrant Pepper Economy", Bangkok, August 1994

National Workshop on Trade Facilitation and Export Promotion, Male, August-September 1994

TCDC Study Visit to Thailand on Trade and Export Promotion, Bangkok, September 1994

ESCAP/UNCTAD Seminar on Trade Prospects for the Year 2000 and Beyond for the Asian and Pacific Region, Beijing, September 1994

Workshop for the Study on Sectoral Flows of Foreign Direct Investment: Selected Issues, Bangkok, September 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Inter-subregional Cooperation in Trade and Investment, Bangkok, September 1994

Symposium on the Implications of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) for the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, September 1994

ESCAP/UNDP/PIDE (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics) National Seminar on Networking of Trade-related Research Institutions in Asia and Pacific, Bhurban, Pakistan, October 1994

National Training Programme on Export Market Research, Ulaanbaatar, October 1994

Seminar on Trade Policy Issues for the Pacific Island Countries, Nadi, Fiji, November 1994

National Workshop on Trade Facilitation and Export Promotion, Hanoi, November 1994

National-level Workshop on Trade Facilitation and Export Promotion, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, November 1994

Training Course in Market Access for Vietnamese Exporters, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, November 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Trade, Investment and the Environment for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China, Bangkok, November 1994

Regional Seminar on Assessing the Potential and Direction of Agricultural Trade within the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Trade Databases: Trade in Goods, Bangkok, November 1994

ESCAP/UNDP/KDI (Korea Development Institute) Regional Symposium on the Uruguay Round Agreements, Seoul, November-December 1994

ESCAP/UNDP/RTC (China International Trade Research and Training Centre for the Asian and Pacific Region) National Seminar on Networking of Trade-related Research Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, December 1994

ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Regional Workshop on the Microcomputer-based Commodity Analysis and Information System, Bangkok, December 1994

National-level Workshop on Trade Facilitation, Vientiane, December 1994

ESCAP/UNDP/APDC Regional Seminar on Changing Comparative Advantage Patterns and Intraregional Trade Expansion in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, December 1994

Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP (second meeting), Jakarta, January 1995

Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (fifteenth session), Bangkok, February 1995

Expert Consultative Meeting on the Benefits and Challenges facing Asia-Pacific Agricultural Trading Countries in the Post-Uruguay Round Period, Bangkok, February 1995

ESCAP/UNDP National Seminar on the Networking of Trade-related Research Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, Singapore, March 1995

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Agriculture and rural development

Training Seminars on Fertilizer Marketing Management in a Changing Economy, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, April-May 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategies for the Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, May 1994

Soil-testing Network Planning Meeting, Bangkok, May-June 1994

Seminar on the Development of the Fertilizer Sector of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, May-June 1994

Regional Workshop of the Database on Pesticides and the Environment, Bangkok, September 1994

FADINAP/NFIS (Network of Fertilizer Information Systems)/FAI (Fertilizer Association of India) Marketing Management Training Programme, Colombo, September 1994

Symposium on Fertilizer Legislation, Phuket, Thailand, October 1994

Seminar on Fertilizer Sector Development in Cambodia: Environmental and Marketing Aspects, Phnom Penh, November 1994

Seminar on Fertilizer Marketing and Legislation, Vientiane, December 1994

IFA (International Fertilizer Industry Association/ FADINAP Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, December 1994

Regional Seminar on Fertilizer Development, Marketing and Environment Aspects, Nadi, Fiji, February-March 1995

Energy

Training Course on Opportunities for Energy Efficiency Improvement in Industrial and Commercial Buildings in Viet Nam, Hanoi, April 1994

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Meeting of Experts and Policy Makers on Energy-Environment Strategies for Urban Transportation, Hong Kong, May 1994

ESCAP/UNDP Workshop on Natural Gas Utilization, Bangkok, June 1994

Energy Management Training Workshop, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, July 1994

Workshop on Demand Side Management, Jakarta, July 1994

ESCAP/UNDP/IIEC (International Institute for Energy Conservation) Regional Policy Workshop on Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling, Singapore, September 1994

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Workshop on Integrated Rural Energy and Environmental Planning for Sustainable Rural Development, Beijing, September 1994

ESCAP/UNDP/AIT (Asian Institute of Technology) Regional Training Workshop on Energy Surveys, Bangkok, September 1994

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Workshop on the Role of Consumer Organizations and Other NGOs in Promoting Energy Conservation and Sustainable Energy Use, Penang, Malaysia, November 1994

ESCAP/UNDP Regional Workshop on Private Sector Participation in Power Generation and Its Consequences on Environmental Quality, Kuala Lumpur, November-December 1994

ESCAP/ECCT (Energy Conservation Centre of Thailand) Seminar and Workshop on Energy Efficient Design and Operation of Commercial Buildings, Bangkok, January 1995

Training Course on Marketing of Energy Efficiency Services in China, Beijing, February 1995

Environment

ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental Meeting on Capacity-building in Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas Region, New Delhi, May 1994

Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (fifth meeting), Jakarta, May-June 1994

Regional Meeting on the State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific, Yangon, July 1994

Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Beijing, November 1994

Consultative Meeting on the 1995 Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December 1994

Consultative Meeting for the NGO/Media Symposium on Environment and Development, Bangkok, January 1995

Working Group of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (fourth meeting), Bangkok, January 1995

High-level Meeting on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Manila, February 1995

Fourth Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, Bangkok, March 1995

ESCAP/ADB/UNEP Workshop on Coastal and Marine Environmental Management, Bangkok, March 1995

ESCAP/ADB/UNEP Consultative Meeting on Coastal and Marine Environmental Management in the South China Sea, Bangkok, March 1995

Regional Workshop on Ecotourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bali, Indonesia, March 1995

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

Seminar on the Possibility of Private Sector Involvement in the Provision of Water Supply and Sanitation Services, Bishkek, April 1994

National Seminar on Urban Water Resources Management, Tashkent, April 1994

ESCAP/UNESCO Training Course on Groundwater Contamination, Bangkok, April-May 1994

National Seminar on Urban Water Resources Management, Yangon, May 1994

Expert Working Group Meeting on the Geological Aspects of Land-use Planning, Bangkok, May 1994

Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific: (thirty-third session), Bangkok, June 1994; (thirty-fourth session), Bangkok, December 1994

Roving Seminars on Comprehensive Flood Loss Prevention and Management: Fiji and Samoa, June 1994; India, September 1994

Study Tour/Group Training to Review Developments in International River Basins in Asia for Experts from the Central Asian Republics, Bangkok, July 1994

Workshop on the Promotion of Investments for Water Supply and Sanitation Projects, Baku, August 1994

National Seminar on the Improvement of Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Cities and Populated Areas in Turkmenistan, Ashkhabad, September 1994

National Seminar on Water Resources Management in Urban Areas of Kazakhstan, Almaty, September 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Protection of Water Resources, Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystem, Bangkok, October 1994

Typhoon Committee (twenty-seventh session), Macau, December 1994

International Seminar on Minerals and Mineral-based Industries in the ESCAP Region: Trade and Technology Cooperation, Kathmandu, December 1994

Working Group on Environmental and Urban Geology for Sustainable Development of Fast-growing Cities, Calcutta, India, February 1995

Forum on Urban Geology in Asia and the Pacific, Calcutta, India, February 1995

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (twenty-second session), Colombo, March 1995

Space technology applications

Meeting of the Directors of the National Remote Sensing Centres/Programmes in the ESCAP Region, Tehran, May 1994

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (tenth session), Tehran, May 1994

Regional Remote Sensing Seminar on Tropical Ecosystem Management, Bali, Indonesia, August 1994

Training Course on the Integrated Use of Remote Sensing and GIS for Land-use Mapping, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, August-October 1994

Symposium on Space Technology and Applications for Sustainable Development, Beijing, September 1994

Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, September 1994

In-depth Training for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems Applications, Wuhan, China, October 1994-September 1995

Regional Seminar on Integrated Application of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Land and Water Resources Management, Bangalore, India, November 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, January-February 1995

Workshop on Remote Sensing and GIS for Land and Marine Resources and Environment Management in the Pacific, Suva, February 1995

Expert Consultation on a Prefeasibility Study for the Establishment of an Earth Space Information Network in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, March 1995

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Human resources development

National Workshops on Training of Trainers for Youth Participation in Sustainable Development: Legazpi City, Philippines, October 1994; Sri Lanka, March-April 1995

Meeting on Strengthening the Role of Youth Organizations in the Promotion of Functional Literacy, Colombo, November 1994

Meeting of the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development, Bangkok, November 1994

Meeting of the Jury for the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, Bangkok, February 1995

National Workshop on Training of Trainers for Youth Participation in Development: Sri Lanka, Colombo, March-April 1995

Human settlements

International Training Course on Applicable Construction Technology and Materials, Chengdu, China, April-May 1994

ESCAP/CITYNET Brainstorming Meeting on Training of Local-level Officials in Concepts and Issues of Public Participation, Colombo, September 1994

Brainstorming Meeting on Living in Asian and Pacific Cities: 20 Years of Innovation and Policy Evolution (first meeting), Phuket, Thailand, October 1994; (second meeting), Rayong, Thailand, March 1995

Meeting of Senior Officials on Subnational Area Planning through Action-oriented Research (Phase III), Phuket, Thailand, October 1994

ACHR (Asian Coalition for Housing Rights)/CITYNET Regional Training Workshop on the Orangi Pilot Project, Karachi, Pakistan, October-November 1994

International Workshop on the Establishment of a Human Settlements Database in Asia and the Pacific, Anyang, Republic of Korea, December 1994

National Seminar on Community-based Housing Finance, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, February 1995

Inter-organizational Committee on Urbanization (second meeting), Bangkok, February 1995

Workshop on Land Management in Asia, Bangkok, March 1995

Expert Group Meeting on the Preparation of the Regional Documentation for Habitat II, Rayong, Thailand, March 1995

Population

National Seminar on Human Resources for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, June 1994

Training Workshop on the Role and Responsibilities of the Family in the Elimination of Leprosy, Bangkok, August 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Analysis of Linkages between Population Factors and Sustainable Development, Chiang Mai, Thailand, August 1994

Regional Training Workshop on Census/Survey Data Analysis for Local Area Development Planning, Bangkok, September 1994

Workshop on Database Development for Population and Health Information Managers, Bangkok, November 1994

South Asia and New POPIN Workshop, Kathmandu, November-December 1994

Social development

Evaluation Workshops of Community-based Approaches to Drug Demand Reduction: Manila, April 1994; Bombay, India, June 1994; Biratnagar, Nepal, October 1994

Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments, Bangkok, June 1994

Pilot Planning Workshops for Community-based Approaches to Drug Demand Reduction: Ruili, China, June 1994; Muse, Myanmar, June-July 1994

NGO Symposium on a Social Development Agenda for the ESCAP Region into the Twenty-first Century, Bangkok, July 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, Bangkok, July 1994

Inter-agency Task Force on Implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond (third session), Bangkok, July 1994; (fourth session), Bangkok, December 1994

First Community-level Training Courses on Drug Demand Reduction: Ruili, China and Muse, Myanmar, August 1994; Second Training Courses: Ruili, China, and Muse, Myanmar, March 1995

Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns (tenth meeting), Bangkok, October 1994; (eleventh meeting), Bangkok, March 1995

Regional Seminar on Community-based Approaches to Drug Abuse Demand Reduction, Bangkok, November 1994

Regional Meeting on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Disabled and Elderly Persons, Bangkok, November 1994

Regional Training Course on Community-based Drug Demand Reduction on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Bangkok, November-December 1994

Women in development

National Workshops on a Women's Information Network: Islamic Republic of Iran, October 1994; Papua New Guinea, November 1994; Lao People's Democratic Republic, November 1994; Nepal, March 1995

National Workshops on Integration of Women in Development Planning, Sri Lanka, October 1994

Regional Meeting of National Coordinating Bodies of NGOs, Bangkok, November-December 1994

National Seminar on Promotion of Legal Awareness Among Women, New Delhi, December 1994

Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, Manila, December 1994

Training Course on Entrepreneurship for Women, Bangkok, January 1995

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

ESCAP/UNCTAD Country-level Workshops on Multimodal Transport: Tehran, May 1994; Port Moresby, August 1994

Country-level Workshop on the Transport Financial/Economic Planning Models: Inland Container Depots, New Delhi, May-June 1994

ESCAP/IMO Seminars on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, Kuala Lumpur, June 1994; Jakarta, June 1994; Bangkok, September 1994

Workshop on Port Capacity Modules of the Maritime Policy Planning Model, Nowshahr, Islamic Republic of Iran, July 1994

ESCAP/IMO Subregional Seminar on the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic, Singapore, September 1994

Regional Review Seminar on Multimodal Transport Development in South-East Asia, Bangkok, September 1994

Regional Seminar on the Environmental Aspects of Dredging Activities in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October 1994

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November 1994

Subregional Seminar on Multimodal Transport, Colombo, November 1994

Seminar on Implications of Accession to Land Transport Facilitation Conventions for ECO Countries, Tehran, November 1994

Inter-Agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (third session), Bangkok, November 1994

ESCAP/UNDP Multimodal Transport Training for Trainers, Johor Bahru, Malaysia, December 1994

Country-level Workshop on Training for Senior Officials on Freight Forwarding, Hanoi, March 1995

Subregional Training Workshop for Senior Officials on Freight Forwarding, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, March 1995

Tourism

Workshop on Tourism Development in Countries along the Mekong River, Kunming, China, December 1994

Committee on Statistics

Statistics

Meetings of Country Experts for Preparing Profiles on Women: (Asia), Bangkok, May 1994; (Pacific), Suva, May 1994

Pacific Seminar on the 1993 System of National Accounts, Canberra, September 1994; Asian Seminar, Bangkok, September 1994

Consultative Meeting on Environmental and Resource Accounting, Bangkok, October 1994

Asian Subregional Workshop on Profiles on Women, Bangkok, October-November 1994; Pacific Subregional Workshop, Port Vila, November 1994

Seminar on Environment Statistics, Jakarta, January 1995

Second Regional Workshop for Core Members of National Working Groups on Gender Statistics, Bangkok, February 1995

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

Expert Group Meeting on Early Development Experience of the Newly Industrializing Economies: Lessons for the Least Developed Countries of the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, September 1994

Expert Group Meeting on Improving the Access of Women to Formal Credit and Financial Institutions in Selected Least Developed Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, November 1994

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

Expert Group Meeting on the Economic Performance and Prospects of Pacific Island Economies (Phase II), Port Vila, July 1994

C. List of advisory services

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation

Development issues and policies

Viet Nam, on macroeconomic modelling and short-term forecasting.

Industrial and technological development

(a) China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, on policy measures in technology development for small and medium enterprises, based on the experience of the Republic of Korea;

(b) Mongolia, on the development of small and medium enterprises;

(c) Thailand: (i) on the corporate plan for the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand; and (ii) on the implementation plan for Maptaput Industrial Port for the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand.

International trade and development finance

(a) Azerbaijan: to review institutional arrangements for export promotion; the implications of the agreements reached in the Uruguay Round; and identification of needs for the further training of Azerbaijan officials in the areas of trade policy and trade promotion;

(b) Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, to review steps taken by SAARC members to enhance intraregional trade, particularly the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), and advise on strengthening SAPTA and accelerating regional economic cooperation in trade through othermeans;

(c) China, on the implications of the agreements reached in the Uruguay Round;

(d) India, on enhancing trade between India and the Central Asian republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);

(e) Kyrgyzstan, on institutional arrangements for international trade and the implications of the agreements reached in the Uruguay Round;

(f) Maldives, on alignment and standardization of trade documents;

(g) Mongolia, on its accession to the Bangkok Agreement;

(h) Samoa and Tonga, on technical assistance for the development of the coconut industry;

(i) Uzbekistan, on institutional arrangements for export promotion, and on implications of the recently concluded Uruguay Round agreements.

Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Agriculture and rural development

(a) Philippines, on collection and computerized handling of data on pesticides;

(b) Thailand, on a pesticide data framework.

Energy

(a) Cambodia, on human resources development for water supply and the rehabilitation of the power sector;

(b) China, on natural gas and petroleum

(c) China and Viet Nam, on wind energy development and utilization;

(d) India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, on natural gas;

(e) Islamic Republic of Iran, on an energy-environment strategy in the transport sector;

(f) Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, on petroleum energy efficiency;

(g) Viet Nam: (i) on energy efficiency; and (ii) on natural gas.

Environment

(a) Bhutan, to assist the National Environment Commission in environmental impact assessment, drafting environmental legislation and memoranda of understanding with other ministries on environmental assessment;

(b) Brunei Darussalam, on preparation and development of a programme of action to implement the National Environment Strategy;

(c) China, on the development of project proposals for regional cooperation in North-East Asia;

(d) Myanmar, on developing a work plan on environmental management, and strengthening the institutional and training aspects;

(e) Philippines, to assist the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources in strengthening marine environmental protection and Agenda 21 action areas;

(f) Republic of Korea, on trade and related environmental issues;

(g) Sri Lanka, on the drawing up of an action plan for regional cooperation among the countries of South Asia.

Natural resources (including marine affairs)

(a) Azerbaijan, on improving water supply and sanitation systems;

(b) Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Nepal: (i) on environmental and urban geology issues; and (ii) on institutional arrangements for incorporating urban geology information in urban planning;

(c) Bhutan, to prepare a draft mining code and regulations and to advise on institutional mechanisms to administer the mining law;

(d) Brunei Darussalam, to the Public Works Department, on hydrological network information and planning for the monitoring of dam safety;

(e) Cambodia: (i) on disaster management (to the Ministry of Environment); (ii) to finalize a detailed 1995 work plan in consultation with the chief technical adviser for the water sector; (iii) on training of water utility and power utility personnel; and (iv) on water-related natural disaster reduction;

(f) Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, on evaluation and development of industrial minerals;

(g) Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, on administration, management and organization of cooperation in international water resources;

(h) Mongolia, on institutional arrangements of the Mongolian Institute of Water Policy, and information on irrigation projects;

(i) Myanmar: (i) on identifying needs for the development of the mineral resources sector; (ii) on the development and application of remote sensing and GIS for natural resources and environment management; and (iii) on water-related natural disaster reduction;

(j) Nepal, on water-related natural disaster reduction;

(k) Pakistan, on developing and testing canal linings;

(l) Sri Lanka: (i) to assist the Government in negotiating a joint-venture agreement to develop the Eppawela phosphate deposits and in the second round of negotiations on an agreement to manufacture phosphate fertilizer for export, utilizing those deposits; and (ii) to the Geological Survey of Sri Lanka, on the integration of geological aspects into urban and land-use planning;

(m) Uzbekistan: (i) to the Ministry of Water Management and Land Reclamation, to review the water

sector and identify priority areas in water management and irrigation; and (ii) to identify the technological and financial requirements for setting up bottled water plants;

(n) Viet Nam, on: (i) environmental and urban geology; (ii) setting priorities for a national urban geology programme; (iii) participation in the project on environmental and urban geology for sustainable development; and (iv) the scope and priorities of the national urban geology programme.

Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development

Agriculture and rural development

Viet Nam, on multi-purpose project formulation and analysis.

Human resources development

(a) China, regarding the establishment of an association of universities of Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Singapore, on the implementation of the youth training and employment promotion component of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development for the ESCAP Region.

Human settlements

(a) India and Pakistan, on mechanisms for cooperation between local authorities and NGOs;

(b) India, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam, on the promotion of urban forums;

(c) India, Pakistan and Viet Nam, on subnational area planning;

(d) Pakistan and Viet Nam, on community-based housing finance;

(e) Viet Nam, on community-based, NGO-supported action research.

Population

(a) Bangladesh, on analysis and implications of demographic data on ageing;

(b) China, (i) to undertake site evaluation of provincial POPIN centres and to participate in the Tripartite Project Review meeting; and (ii) to provide technical assistance on the population information network;

(c) India, (i) on interpreting the findings of the first survey on ageing and developing an action plan; and (ii) to monitor country studies on population change, women's role and status, and development, and to provide technical backstopping to study teams;

(d) Lao People's Democratic Republic, on the integration of population factors into development planning;

(e) Myanmar and Viet Nam, to consult with the Governments and UNFPA on funding for the national population information programmes, and organize a workshop for the national POPIN networks;

(f) Nepal: (i) on streamlining the computerized information system (National Commission on Population); (ii) on the implementation of the Bali Declaration; (iii) to review the draft of a study for a project on the trends, patterns and implications of rural-urban migration; and (iv) to provide technical assistance to the National Commission on Population;

(g) Pakistan: (i) to evaluate the status of the Population Network in Pakistan and assess the prospects for developing a shared focal point with the National Institute for Population Studies; and (ii) on analysis of data gathered by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics on local-level policy development on the consequences of ageing;

(h) Viet Nam: (i) on conducting population surveys; (ii) on funding for the national POPIN centre; (iii) to organize and conduct planning a workshop/retreat for POPIN managers; and (iv) to organize and conduct in-country training on information and documentation for Viet Nam POPIN documentalists and other technical staff.

Social development

(a) Cambodia, on the promotion of self-help organizations of disabled persons in the context of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons;

(b) India: (i) on development of a strategy for the implementation of the Agenda for Action; (ii) on promotion of community-based rehabilitation in the context of the Decade; and (iii) on TCDC development concerning assistive devices, promotion of accessibility and the integration of disability concerns into rural development;

(c) Indonesia: on peer counselling for people with disabilities and leadership of disabled people in meeting the challenges of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons;

(d) Malaysia, in support of promotion of a programme for disabled people within the context of the Agenda for Action;

(e) Pakistan, on prison reform;

(f) Philippines: on (i) implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond; (ii) promotion of the Decade of Disabled Persons and the convening of the Manila Campaign: '94 on the Decade; and (iii) youth crime prevention and the treatment of young offenders;

(g) Thailand, on administrative measures for a newly constructed Vocational Training Centre for Juvenile Delinquents.

Women in development

Bhutan and Nepal, to provide technical assistance to national focal points for the advancement of women in establishing and strengthening women's information centres.

Committee on Transport and Communications

Transport and communications

(a) Myanmar, on the development of multimodal transport and freight forwarding;

(b) Pakistan, on the conversion of diesel buses to compressed natural gas;

(c) Sri Lanka and Thailand, on the commercial aspects of railway modernization;

(d) Thailand, on optimum requirements of lighters in inland waterways.

Tourism

(a) Cambodia, on tourism promotion for the Japanese market in Cambodia;

(b) Lao People's Democratic Republic, on tourism development;

(c) Maldives, on resort lease agreements.

Committee on Statistics

Statistics

(a) Bangladesh, China, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand, on environment statistics;

(b) Federated States of Micronesia and Malaysia, on price statistics;

(c) Guam and India, on the system of environmental and resource accounting;

(d) India and Pakistan, on the salient features of the revised System of National Accounts and on an implementation strategy;

(e) India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, on improving statistics related to gender issues;

(f) Myanmar, to review the national accounts statistics and make recommendations for improvement.

Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries

(a) Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal, on improving the access of women to formal credit and financial institutions;

(b) Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives and Nepal, on country studies for the mid-term review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

(c) Lao People's Democratic Republic, on population projections.

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

Advisory services provided by the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

(a) Cook Islands, on (i) financial sector development; (ii) management of the currency and strategy planning; and (iii) planning and development of ports and shipping infrastructure and services;

(b) Federated States of Micronesia, to implement port planning and management proposals for Pohnpei Port Authority;

(c) Fiji: (i) to the Prime Minister's Department and Ministry of Finance, to identify areas for cooperation with the Reserve Bank of Fiji on informal financial systems; (ii) to the Reserve Bank, on a survey of rural financial services; (iii) on the Sugar Cane Growers Fund; and (iv) on a proposed tax package for the minerals project;

(d) French Polynesia, to review the economy and its prospects;

(e) Guam:(i) to undertake a joint study with the South Pacific Commission on Guam's competitiveness;

(f) Marshall Islands: (i) to review project proposals for ports and harbours development, for submission to funding agencies; and (ii) on port computerization;

(g) Nauru, on improvements to port operations and reef channels;

(h) New Caledonia, to review current economic, social and political conditions and to assess the potential, problems and future technical assistance needs;

(i) Solomon Islands: (i) to advise the Ministry of Development Planning on developing a national planning bill and regulations; (ii) on technical assistance needs; (iii) on improvements to port operations; (iv) on financing aspects of the proposed National Development Plan, 1994-1997; and to assist in the preparation of the Plan in the building/construction and land transport sectors; (v) to the Central Bank, on extension of the domestic securities market, and on issuing securities; (vi) on the operations of Malaita Provincial Development Fund; (vii) on the public policy aspects of domestic refinancing of foreign debt; and (viii) to the Ports Authority, on refinancing of the second Honiara port loan;

(j) Tonga: (i) on the formulation and implementation of trade promotion policies; (ii) to assist with the preparation of the budget; (iii) on rationalization and improvements to harbour facilities for small craft at Nuku'alofa; (iv) on institutional development in the ports sector, particularly computerization; and (v) to assist with the preparation of the transport chapter of the National Development Plan;

(k) Vanuatu: (i) on the structure of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu; (ii) to provide technical support to the Marine Department; (iii) to the Vanuatu Women's Centre, on research on domestic violence; (iv) to the Vanuatu National Council of Women, on a survey on women living in rural areas; (v) on water supply projects in various places; (vi) to assist with the processing and analysis of data collected in the mother/child health survey; (vii) to conduct small business skills training, with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce; (viii) on evaluation of the Credit Union Movement; (ix) on women in development; (x) on market and trade policies; and (xi) to conduct business awareness training for women, with the Department of Industry at Ambae.

Chapter III

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

134. The fifty-first session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 24 April to 1 May 1995.

135. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Cook Islands, Hong Kong, Macau and New Caledonia.

136. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Romania, South Africa, Sweden and Turkey attended. A representative of Switzerland attended under Economic and Social Council resolution 860 (XXXII). A representative of the Holy See also attended under Economic and Social Council decision 244 (LXIII).

137. The session was also attended by officials of the United Nations Secretariat representing the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Commissions New York Office.

138. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Development Fund for Women, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations International Drug Control Programme and United Nations Population Fund.

139. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

140. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asia and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian Productivity Organization, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States, Colombo Plan Bureau, Economic Cooperation Organization, European Commission, Forum Secretariat, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Mekong River Commission, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, South Pacific Commission and Typhoon Committee.

141. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in category I: International Cooperative Alliance, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization for Standardization, Muslim World League, World Assembly of Youth, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Veterans Federation and Zonta International; and from the following organizations in category II: Baha'i International Community, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association and World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises; and from the following organization on the roster: International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations.

142. Representatives of the ASEAN Port Authorities Association, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements and World Council of Religion and Peace also attended.

143. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(LI)/INF.1/Rev.2.

144. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Commission at its first meeting elected Hon. Bernard Narokobi (Papua New Guinea) Chairperson.

145. Following the past practice of the Commission, and after informal consultations, the Chairperson proposed and the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons: HE Mr Mazibor Rahman (Bangladesh), HE Dato Ahmad Wally Skinner (Brunei Darussalam), HE Mr Ou Orhat (Cambodia), HE Mr Qin Huasun (China), HE Mr Tejendra Khanna (India), HE Mr Soemadi D.M. Brotodiningrat (Indonesia), HE Mr Mahmoud Asgari Azad (Islamic Republic of Iran), HE Mr Hakuo Yanagisawa (Japan), Hon. Beniamina Tinga (Kiribati), HE Mr A. Jekshenkulov (Kyrgyzstan), HE Mr Kithong Vongsay (Lao People's Democratic Republic), HE Mr T. Anien (Marshall Islands), Hon. Dr Mangal Siddhi Manandhar (Nepal), HE Mr Masood Kausar (Pakistan), Hon. Lina D. Laigo (Philippines), HE Mr Lee See-Young (Republic of Korea), HE Mr A.S. Chernyshev (Russian Federation), HE Mr Yatiman Yusof (Singapore), Hon. Danny Philip (Solomon Islands), HE Mr M.D.D. Peiris (Sri Lanka), HE Dr Surin Pitsuwan (Thailand), Hon. James Cecil Cocker (Tonga), HE Mr Panapasi Nelesone (Tuvalu), Hon. Serge Vohor (Vanuatu) and HE Mr Nguyen Dinh Bin (Viet Nam).

146. Mr Mohd Roze Abdul Rahman (Malaysia) was elected Rapporteur-General of the plenary session.

147. The Chairperson proposed and the Commission decided to appoint two committees of the whole to consider agenda items 6-11. Committee of the Whole I elected HE Ms Rosalinda V. Tirona (Philippines) Chairperson and Mr Jalal Kalantary (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr G. Hewagama (Sri Lanka) Vice-Chairpersons. Ms Aline Menager-Kuster (France) was elected Rapporteur. Committee of the Whole II elected HE Mr Tae-Dong Chung (Republic of Korea) Chairperson and Mr Herijanto Soeprapto (Indonesia) and Mr Pushkar Man Singh Rajbhandari (Nepal) Vice-Chairpersons. Mr Matthew Hyndes (Australia) was elected Rapporteur.

148. The Commission also decided to constitute an informal working group on draft resolutions under the chairmanship of HE Mr Ranjit Gupta (India) to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr Shi Jicheng (China), Mr Yoshiharu Kagawa (Japan) and Mr Michiel W.H. Crom (Netherlands) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the informal working group.

149. The Chairperson announced that, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, he and the Vice-Chairpersons, constituting the Credentials Committee, had examined the credentials of all the representatives and had found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

150. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.127, E/ESCAP/L.128 and Corr.1).
4. Admission of new members (E/ESCAP/1013 and Add.1).
5. Policy debate:
   (a) Review of recent economic and social developments: their likely impact on the ESCAP region and the work of the Commission (E/ESCAP/977);
   (b) Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/978).
6. Regional economic cooperation:
   (a) Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its fourth session, and follow-up (E/ESCAP/979);
   (b) Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme (E/ESCAP/980 and E/ESCAP/980/Add.1);
   (c) Policy issues and important developments relevant to the subprogramme (E/ESCAP/981 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/982);
   (d) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/983).
7. Environment and sustainable development:
   (a) Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its second session, and follow-up (E/ESCAP/984);
   (b) Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, and follow-up (E/ESCAP/985 and Corr.1);
   (c) Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme (E/ESCAP/986);
   (d) Policy issues and important developments relevant to the subprogramme (E/ESCAP/987 and Corr.1).
8. Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development:

(a) Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, and follow-up (E/ESCAP/988);

(b) Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, and follow-up (E/ESCAP/989);

(c) Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme (E/ESCAP/990);

(d) Policy issues and important developments relevant to the subprogramme (E/ESCAP/991);

(e) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/992 and Corr.1).

9. Transport and communications:

(a) Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme (E/ESCAP/993);

(b) Revised draft New Delhi action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/994).

10. Statistics:

(a) Report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session, and follow-up (E/ESCAP/995);

(b) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/996).

11. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries:

(a) Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its third session, and follow-up (E/ESCAP/997);

(b) Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-Locked Developing Countries on its second session, and follow-up (E/ESCAP/998).

12. Inter-organizational cooperation in the promotion of economic and social development in the region (E/ESCAP/999).

13. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/1000, E/ESCAP/1001, E/ESCAP/1002 and E/ESCAP/1003).

14. Programme planning:

(a) Review of the implementation of the programme of work, 1994-1995, and proposed programme changes for 1995 (E/ESCAP/1004 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1005 and Corr.1, and E/ESCAP/1006);

(b) Draft programme of work, 1996-1997 (E/ESCAP/1007 and E/ESCAP/1008).

15. Issues relevant to the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/1009 and Corr.1).

16. Organization of future sessions of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1010).

17. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1011 and E/ESCAP/1011/Add.1).

18. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-second session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1012).

19. Other matters.

20. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

151. The session was declared open by the Acting Chairperson of the fiftieth session, HE Mr Mazibor Rahman, State Minister for Finance of Bangladesh. HE Mr Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address. The Executive Secretary read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address.

Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand

152. The Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, welcomed those attending the session.

153. He noted that the session was taking place during the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. During the past decades, the United Nations had played a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security. In contributing to the peaceful settlement of conflicts, the Organization had also made a continuing effort to lay the foundation for lasting peace, mainly through its functional bodies like ESCAP. In promoting economic and social development in various regions of

the world, those bodies had simultaneously reduced fundamental conditions for conflict and significantly enhanced international understanding.

154. The Government and people of Thailand had always appreciated the vital role of ESCAP in strengthening human progress and peace in the region. As an essential forum for its members and associate members to discuss and formulate concerted actions, ESCAP had been instrumental in bringing about regional economic and social progress and solidarity.

155. He noted the need to confront the challenges ahead together. Peacemaking and other activities with long-term implications were assuming greater urgency. He expressed satisfaction that the current session was addressing the issue of "Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific". That was a problem area of crucial significance in the current age of globalization. Rapid economic growth had brought with it a vast array of social and environmental problems. As a result, greater attention was being paid to human progress and decent living conditions.

156. Thailand was placing emphasis on popular well-being and human development, and had been making persistent efforts to eradicate absolute poverty and upgrade public welfare services in vital areas such as education and public health. In an age of growing international contacts and competition, human resources development would remain the key to both human and national progress.

157. At the same time, the current globalizing imperative had resulted in an even more urgent need for regional and international cooperation in that and other problem areas, ranging from environmental degradation to labour migration.

158. Thailand had, in the past, benefited substantially, as a recipient, from assistance by the United Nations and donor countries. The country was transforming its role from that of recipient by contributing more to international development assistance, and had established a fund for development cooperation, particularly with neighbouring countries, primarily to support their human resources development goals. Thailand would also welcome cooperation on a tripartite basis with the involvement of third countries or international agencies. On the multilateral level, Thailand had submitted plans and projects for human resources development to the Senior Officials Meeting of APEC in February 1995, on behalf of the APEC Human Resources Development Working Group. It was hoped that such initiatives would strengthen regional collaboration in that area.

159. He reaffirmed Thailand's support for ESCAP in the attempt to achieve regional development aims, and expressed the hope that ESCAP would continue to give due attention to social problems and other related issues. In the area of human resources development, in particular, Thailand would play its part in the concerted effort to achieve common goals and strengthen regional solidarity.

160. The current session was being convened at a most opportune time, marking the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the King of Thailand's accession to the throne. As one of the longest-reigning monarchs, His Majesty the King was most revered for his devotion to the development of Thailand and the well-being of the Thai people. He expressed confidence that the Thai people, who had been following His Majesty the King's footsteps in national development efforts, would be pleased to view the deliberations on regional cooperation in human resources development as part of their celebration of the Golden Jubilee.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

161. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the current session was taking place during the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, at a time of intense debate about how the goals of the Charter of the United Nations could best be advanced in a vastly changed world. Political, technological and economic changes had created unprecedented possibilities for nations to work together. Such cooperation was more essential than ever, to confront such global threats as environmental degradation, international crime and natural disasters.

162. There had been increasing awareness in recent years of the fundamental importance of economic and social development to international welfare. Solutions to economic and social problems were being sought with new vigour.

163. The recent World Summit for Social Development had played a central role in that effort, with Member States successfully formulating a global strategy to support social progress. For the strategy to become a reality, steps needed to be taken at the regional and national levels.

164. He noted that the Asian and Pacific region had been at the forefront of world economic growth. Yet, despite the region's dynamism, it faced many of the challenges discussed at the World Summit. Within the region, there were pockets of desperate poverty, as well as enormous wealth. Technological sophistication was spread unevenly.

165. The session of the Commission provided an opportunity to build upon what had been accomplished. It represented a chance to restore a sense of belonging to those who had been marginalized socially, and to lay the foundations for long-term prosperity.

166. Development was intimately tied to the other goals of the Charter, including peace, respect for human

rights and respect for international law. It had become clear that democracy, as well, was integral to development.

167. The Commission represented a valuable forum to discuss those issues. He expressed confidence that its decisions would help bring the region closer to a future of social strength and shared prosperity. By maintaining a broad vision of development, the Commission could bring enduring success to Asia and the Pacific.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

168. The Executive Secretary welcomed the delegations attending the session. He expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session, which served as a reaffirmation of Thailand's commitment to the development goals of the Commission as well as to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

169. The ESCAP region was going through an era of profound contrasts, characterized by the continuing spectre of poverty and deprivation in many societies on the one hand, and newly found affluence and prosperity on the other. The situation presented a host of opportunities, including the possibility of giving undivided attention to development efforts in the economic and social sectors in the prevailing vastly improved political climate. The prospects for intensified cooperation in trade, investment, transfer of technology and human resources development promised brighter opportunities. The secretariat was heartened that such opportunities for greater cooperation would be explored during the Commission's deliberations and looked forward to their positive outcome.

Tribute to the former Executive Secretary of ESCAP

170. The Commission paid warm tribute to the former Executive Secretary, Mr Rafeeuddin Ahmed, for his dynamic leadership of the secretariat and important contributions to strengthening regional cooperation among the countries of Asia and the Pacific. It wished him well in his endeavours as Associate Administrator of UNDP.

Admission of new members

171. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1013 and E/ESCAP/1013/Add.1.

172. In addition, the Commission was informed of the contents of an *aide-mémoire* dated 9 March 1995 circulated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the members and associate members of the Commission, concerning the inclusion of the Russian Federation within the geographical scope of the Commission. That *aide-mémoire* was intended to provide them with additional clarification of the position of the Russian Federation on certain issues that had arisen in the course of its bilateral consultations with them. The *aide-mémoire* referred to the inclusion of the Russian Federation within the geographical scope of the Commission as being "in conformity with the country's geographic and geopolitical position in the Asia-Pacific region". It also referred to the intensification of Russian Federation participation in regional organizations and associations in the general context of that country's desire for integration in the Asian and Pacific region. It pointed out further that the desire to intensify participation of the Russian Federation in ESCAP activities and to be included within the geographical scope of the Commission "shall in no way affect the interests of small island States of Oceania and the least developed members of the Commission and will not entail any reduction in their share of the economic assistance provided".

173. The Commission recommended that the Russian Federation be included within its geographical scope as defined in paragraph 2, in addition to existing paragraph 3, of the terms of reference of the Commission, with an appropriate recommendation to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council that the Commission's terms of reference be amended.

174. It approved a draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council relating to the amendment of paragraph 2 of its terms of reference.

Policy debate

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

175. The Executive Secretary stressed that ESCAP could and should be the driving force behind increased Asian cooperation in the economic and social fields, as well as the principal forum for intercountry dialogue and exchange of experience. He pledged to steer the ESCAP secretariat towards responding as fully as possible to the needs and concerns of the members and associate members in the coming years.

176. He drew attention to the economic dynamism of the region and the sustainability of its growth momentum. He also noted other achievements of the region, including sustainable growth in exports, especially of manufactured goods, and increasing inflows of external private capital. That growth performance was underpinned by the continued momentum of economic reforms in most of the countries in the region, with strong emphasis on deregulation, liberalization, outward orientation and enhancement of the competitiveness of exports. Referring to the disparities in economic performance among countries in the region, he emphasized the need to assist countries with slower economic growth through increased regional cooperation in a wide range of areas, exchanges of experience on policies, and more intraregional transfers of technology and investment.

Wider transmission of the strong growth impulses within the region constituted a challenging task. The most serious challenges confronting the countries of the region pertained to providing macroeconomic stability with generally low rates of inflation, resolving the growing infrastructural bottlenecks, and mitigating the emerging social concerns. The contrasts in economic performance, however, provided opportunities for exploiting complementarity in production processes and demand patterns, with the possibility of different stages of manufacturing being undertaken in different countries according to their dynamic comparative advantage for the benefit of all.

177. Despite a progressively stronger indigenous growth impulse, the countries of the region remained dependent on the international economic environment for sustaining their growth level, and their capacity to mould the external environment remained limited. Consequently, they did not yet constitute, by themselves, a growth pole and there was a need to remain conscious of the benefits of an open international trading environment and of assistance from the developed world. Relationships among countries were often characterized by either of two extremes: donors and recipients, or economic and political equals. The leap from one extreme to the other was far too great. There was a need to consider the development of intermediate relationships, such as the "tripartite relationships" espoused by the Non-aligned Movement which linked North-South cooperation with South-South cooperation, thereby allowing countries at different levels of development to share their experience, know-how, growth and prosperity. He pointed out that ESCAP undertook some programmes of that nature and that such activities would be further encouraged.

178. The Executive Secretary stated that sustained development of intraregional trade and investment constituted an indispensable part of any regional development strategy. He drew the Commission's attention to the support being provided by the secretariat in relation to the Bangkok Agreement, the Asian Clearing Union, the Asian Reinsurance Corporation and the regional investment information and promotion service. The secretariat had also been active in supporting the industrial and technological development of the members and associate members of ESCAP, with activities focused on the implementation of the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific and the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer. The ramifications of the changing rules affecting trade, following the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the coming into being of the World Trade Organization, would need to be absorbed and influenced by ESCAP members and associate members if they were to retain and enhance their role in the world economy. ESCAP was helping to sensitize the trade policy makers of the region to the implications of the agreements and it was providing assistance to countries to facilitate their adjustment in the period ahead. He warned that the region needed to come to grips with the increasingly volatile and demanding domain of international finance.

179. The Executive Secretary observed that in practically all countries of the region the incidence of poverty was unacceptably high, and that poverty alleviation had been an underlying concern in discussions at many recent international and regional meetings. He drew attention to the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, and stressed the necessity for their effective implementation. He also highlighted the growing need to provide social security services, an issue which was likely to assume increasing importance on the policy agenda in the coming years.

180. Another area of common concern to all countries and areas in the region was the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development. The Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, scheduled to be held in November 1995, would provide another chance to review the situation and rethink strategy. The secretariat would convene a regional urban forum towards the end of 1995, at which regional inputs to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, would be discussed. In noting the increasing importance of space technology applications, he urged the Commission to take note of the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and to endorse its Action Plan. He drew attention to another recent development of considerable importance: the agreement on cooperation for sustainable development of the Mekong River basin.

181. On the theme topic of the current session of the Commission, "Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific", the Executive Secretary said that the development of countries in the region was closely dependent upon the effective use of human resources and their continued enrichment, through education, skills formation, improved health and nutrition and other social dimensions. The proposals put forward in the report on the theme topic for the consideration of the Commission encompassed a variety of initiatives in seven strategic areas pertinent to human resources development, and deserved serious attention.

182. Rapid rates of economic growth, industrialization and urbanization had placed severe strains on existing infrastructure in many countries, while the level of development in others had been hindered owing to the inadequacy of their infrastructure. Financing of the huge investment for infrastructure development posed a formidable problem. He welcomed the enlisting of the support of the private sector for the development of transport, communications and power infrastructure. He proposed that the planned ad hoc intergovernmental meeting be replaced by a ministerial conference on infrastructure in 1996.

183. ESCAP, in implementing its broad range of activities, was mindful of the need to seek cooperation with other concerned organizations and bodies within and outside the United Nations system. ESCAP continued to cooperate closely with UNDP as its major development partner, and the recent Regional Development Cooperation Meeting in Asia and the Pacific had reaffirmed that close relationship. Moreover, ESCAP had taken a lead role among the regional commissions of the United Nations in establishing the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary emphasized that ESCAP could best be of service to its constituents if it focused on three basic functions: in-depth research on pressing problems in the region; mobilization of the intergovernmental machinery to foster the exchange of experience; and provision of technical and advisory assistance from the secretariat within its funding possibilities and, increasingly, among the countries of the region themselves through technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and tripartite modalities, and in cooperation with subregional organizations.

Review of recent economic and social developments, their likely impact on the ESCAP region and the work of the Commission

184. The Commission had before it the "Review of recent economic and social developments: summary of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1995*" (E/ESCAP/977). It complimented the secretariat on the high quality of the *Survey*, which served as excellent background material for the discussions under the agenda item.

185. The post-cold war era had created valuable opportunities for the economic and social development of countries of the world through better international understanding and cooperation. The coming into being of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was a milestone in the forging of harmonious international economic relations through freer flow of goods, services, capital and technology.

186. The Commission emphasized the importance of the timely implementation of the full range of agreements of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, under which WTO had been established. It cautioned against any possible regress into protectionism through the introduction of extraneous considerations in the arena of trade.

187. Not all countries might be properly placed to benefit from the new international economic environment or to share equally in the overall gains expected from expanded trade under the emerging new regime. The international community would therefore have to pay particular attention to the needs of the weaker economies, such as those of the least developed and the small island countries and the economies in transition. Attention would also have to be paid to the increased risks and vulnerability of economies as a result of greater interdependence, particularly with regard to the volatility of exchange rates and capital flows.

188. In reviewing recent developments, the Commission noted with satisfaction the continuing economic dynamism of the region. The developing economies of the region had recorded a high average growth rate of 7.7 per cent in 1994, compared with 7.2 per cent in 1993. The prospects for sustaining high rates of growth appeared bright. The improved international trading environment following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, and a more robust recovery from the recent recession in the economies of industrial countries, were among the external factors conducive to high economic growth in the region. Prudent macroeconomic management, accelerated implementation of policy reforms, the growing strength of domestic markets, and intraregional trade and investment links were also contributory factors in sustaining dynamic growth in the region.

189. However, the growth impulse had not spread commensurably into the region's least developed, land-locked and small island economies, and the economies in transition. The need for accelerated economic and social development of the economies of those groups was stressed, and the international community was urged to strengthen financial and technical assistance to them. Many delegations reiterated their commitment to the provision of assistance to those groups of countries, within the framework of multilateral, regional and bilateral assistance programmes.

190. The Commission stressed the need to resolve many social development issues besetting the region. Particular emphasis was placed on overcoming extreme poverty and reducing excessive population growth and unemployment. The need to devise appropriate social safety and security for the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in society was also emphasized. Special importance was attached to improving the economic and social status of women by enabling them to obtain better access to education, health and employment opportunities and to play a greater role in the

decision-making process. The Commission urged members and associate members to implement, with the help of the international community, the agreements reached at the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995, and looked forward to the successful outcome of the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in September 1995.

191. The Commission noted with concern that the fast pace of economic growth in the past had been accompanied by significant environmental degradation. Certain global factors had taken their toll on the region's environment. The Commission emphasized that economic development had to be pursued simultaneously with sound environmental management in order to ensure the sustainability of development. It urged that national, regional and international efforts be made to implement Agenda 21 fully, and that the financial and technical assistance needs of the developing countries for that purpose should be adequately met.

192. The Commission emphasized the pivotal role of regional cooperation in promoting economic and social development in the countries of the region. Such cooperation could extend to areas such as trade and investment, environmental protection and management, and human resources development. There were valuable opportunities for expanded regional and subregional cooperation, taking into consideration both the geographical vastness of the region and the differences in the levels of national economic development as well as in capital, and human, technological and natural resources. The Commission reiterated that ESCAP played a pivotal role in the promotion of regional cooperation. It urged that effective action be taken to implement the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, which had been adopted by the Commission at its fiftieth session. It also took note of the emergence of various subregional economic cooperation groupings in the region and endorsed the strengthening of ESCAP support and encouragement of subregional and inter-subregional cooperation activities.

Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific

193. The Commission had before it the secretariat study on the theme topic, *Strengthening of Regional Cooperation in Human Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific, with Special Reference to the Social Implications of Sustainable Economic Growth* (ST/ESCAP/1467). It also had before it the executive summary of that study (E/ESCAP/978) and the report on the Meeting of the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development, held in Bangkok in November 1994. The Commission commended the secretariat on the high quality of that published study and those documents, which provided useful background for the Commission's deliberations on the theme topic.

194. The Commission expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by the secretariat as a basis for the preparation of the theme study. It referred, in particular, to the successful organization of the Meeting of the Panel of Eminent Persons. That Meeting had been chaired by HE Mr Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand, and had included, as participants, prominent ministers in charge of human resources development-related issues, leading figures from the private and non-governmental organization sectors, and the executive heads of several subregional intergovernmental organizations, including Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The Meeting had reviewed a set of proposals for action in seven strategic areas of regional cooperation in human resources development: governance, education, employment, science and technology, entitlements, social integration and population, and institutional support. It had also adopted the Bangkok Statement on Regional Cooperation in Human Resources Development.

195. The Commission welcomed with appreciation the thought-provoking set of 20 proposals for action for regional cooperation in human resources development, as contained in document E/ESCAP/978, that had been reviewed by the Panel of Eminent Persons. urged the secretariat to examine those proposals further with a view to suggesting a possible action programme, bearing in mind the existing activities in that area.

196. Many Governments expressed interest in participating in the activities described in the proposals for action. The need for activities to address the human resources development needs of the poor, unemployed, youth, women, migrant workers and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups was emphasized. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue to work closely with the subregional intergovernmental organizations and the concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the implementation of the proposals for action.

197. In its deliberations on the theme topic as elaborated in the secretariat study, the Commission reiterated its endorsement of the concept of human resources development, as contained in the *Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as Revised in 1994* (ST/ESCAP/1406). It adopted resolution 51/2 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific. Continued and increased investment in the region's human resources, through education, skills

formation and improved health, was crucial to enhancing the quality of life in the region and to maintaining the region's competitive edge in the rapidly evolving global economy.

198. The different stages of development, as well as the complementarities among countries of the region, provided important opportunities for regional cooperation in human resources development. Such development had played a critical role in the achievement of high rates of economic growth in some countries of the region, which had developed effective and efficient systems for delivering human resources development services. By contrast, the level of human resources development was low in the least developed countries, and service delivery systems were weak in some of the countries in transition. Delegations from several least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries and countries in transition indicated a desire to learn from the successful human resources development achievements of other countries in the region, particularly those that had achieved or were approaching the status of newly industrializing economies. The delegations from a number of countries experiencing rapid economic growth indicated their readiness to assist other countries in the development and refinement of their human resources development programmes.

199. The special focus of the theme study on the social implications of sustainable economic growth encapsulated the objectives of the recent World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995, as well as those of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in September 1995. That focus reflected the fact that development policy and planning in the Asian and Pacific region had, in recent years, intensified its commitment to social development, as had been evidenced by the adoption of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in Manila in 1991, and the organization of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit on Social Development, held in Manila in 1994.

200. The Commission observed that the effective use of physical, capital and natural resources was ultimately dependent on the quality of human capital. Experience in the region had shown that even countries with few natural resources could achieve high rates of economic growth through the utilization of a skilled, dynamic and productive labour force. There was also considerable evidence that the needs for human resources development changed with the level of economic development. Following extended periods of rapid economic growth, several economies in the region that had initially adopted labour-intensive development strategies based on the utilization of unskilled and semi-skilled labour had subsequently shifted to strategies dependent on the utilization of highly educated and skilled labour. That change had often involved an increased emphasis on adult education, and the training and retraining of the employed labour force.

201. The Commission emphasized the need to generate and inject more technology-related investment into the ESCAP region. Technological assistance and/or technology transfer were needed to supplement new and ongoing vocational and skill training schemes.

202. The Commission noted the critical role of health and nutrition in providing the foundation for all human resources development, and the high priority accorded to that area by Governments. It also affirmed the continuing need to increase women's human resources development in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in relation to the eradication of poverty, and to provide women equal access to productive assets and paid employment. It was further pointed out that human resources development encompassed not only productive and material development but also non-material and spiritual development, and that attention should be paid to the need for support measures for the family in human resources development programmes. Despite cultural and institutional differences among the countries of the region, important opportunities for regional cooperation existed in all those areas.

203. The Commission affirmed that the primary responsibility for human resources development remained the province of Governments. However, NGOs and the private sector possessed a comparative advantage in certain areas of human resources development. NGOs were particularly skilled and experienced in meeting the special needs of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, while the private sector was well-placed to meet the need for relevant and timely on-the-job training, and was, in fact, already playing an increasingly prominent role in the emerging globalization process. Several delegations noted that enlisting the participation of NGOs and the private sector would be useful in further strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development.

204. The Commission observed that special constraints were faced by the least developed and land-locked countries in the development of their human resources within a policy framework towards more open, export-oriented development. Some representatives referred to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990.

205. The Commission noted the special difficulties in generating human resources development in the Pacific island developing countries. Because of the small size of their economies, lack of resources and distance from

major markets, the development of skilled and productive human resources was particularly important to the export-oriented national development strategies being pursued by most Pacific countries. Several representatives of Pacific island countries noted the heavy burden their Governments faced in providing social infrastructure, as a result of continued high fertility as well as the high costs of service delivery to small and isolated populations.

206. Representatives of several countries in transition reported that, as their countries moved from central planning to a more open, market-oriented economic system, they were encountering difficulties in maintaining and building on their previous achievements in human resources development. The process of structural transformation had often been accompanied by declining levels of output, reducing the Governments' capacity to undertake investment in human resources. National expenditures on human resources development had been forcibly reduced, as had been particularly evident in the critical areas of health care and basic education. Unemployment and underemployment arising from the ailing or closed-down public sector enterprises had also generated a new need for labour market information systems and adjustment mechanisms in many of the region's economies in transition.

207. Statements were made by a number of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, many of which expressed their support for the proposals for action on regional cooperation in human resources development and stated their interest in collaborating with ESCAP in the implementation of those proposals. The representative of UNDP welcomed the ESCAP initiative in focusing on human resources development, which corresponded closely to the UNDP focus on human development. He stated that it would be timely and appropriate for ESCAP and UNDP to join forces in pursuing the common goal of sustainable human development.

208. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for having generously financed the secretariat's activities leading to the preparation of the theme study, including the organization of the Meeting of the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development. It recognized that the consistent support of those donor Governments to the secretariat's human resources development activities had been an instrumental factor in the secretariat's successful preparations for the consideration of the theme topic at the fifty-first session.

Regional economic cooperation

209. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/979, E/ESCAP/980 and E/ESCAP/980/Add.1, E/ESCAP/981 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/982 and E/ESCAP/983.

Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its fourth session, and follow-up

210. It endorsed the report of the Committee on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/979) and, as recommended therein, approved the reports of the Steering Group of the Committee on its fifth and sixth meetings.

211. The Commission recognized the commendable work done by the Committee and its Steering Group. It acknowledged that the Steering Group had played a very effective role and had been successful in drawing up action programmes for regional economic cooperation in different fields. It suggested, however, that in order to make the Committee more effective, the work of the Committee and the Steering Group should be reviewed with the object of rationalizing their functions if necessary, so as to avoid unnecessary duplication. While the Steering Group should evolve into a "think tank" with participants representing government, the private sector, and academia, the Committee should play the role of "policy planner".

212. While recognizing that a review of the conference structure of the Commission was due by 1997, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, the Commission mandated the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) to consider the rationalization of the work of the Committee and the Steering Group, and directed that the report of the Advisory Committee be submitted to the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its fifth session. The Committee would subsequently submit its recommendation to the Commission.

213. In endorsing the reports of the Committee and its Steering Group, the Commission recognized their contribution to the strengthening of cooperative efforts in the region. It stressed that regional economic cooperation was a pragmatic vehicle for sharing the benefits of economic development. Delegations recommended that those efforts be further invigorated with a greater focus on the special needs and problems of the disadvantaged groups of countries. The Commission endorsed the major conclusions and decisions of the Committee and its Steering Group as contained in paragraphs 5-28 of document E/ESCAP/979, and recommended that those be prioritized and pursued by the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources. The Commission commended, in particular, the secretariat studies on the review and analysis of intraregional trade flows, prospects of regional economic cooperation through subregional growth zones, relocation of industries and industrial complementarity, and sectoral flows of FDI.

Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme

214. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat activities to promote inter-subregional cooperation. It agreed that the annual meetings between the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the executive heads of subregional organizations were useful and would contribute to the development of linkages between subregions and promote learning through the exchange of experience.

215. The Commission approved the major recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Follow-up to the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, held in New Delhi in April 1995. Some delegations, however, expressed the opinion that since there were many recommendations, they should be prioritized for implementation. The secretariat was, therefore, directed to submit synthesized proposals for strengthening regional economic cooperation based on the recommendations to the Committee and its Steering Group for further examination with a view to convening a ministerial conference on a strategy for strengthening regional economic cooperation. The Commission adopted resolution 51/6 on implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century.

216. The Commission recognized the importance of quality control and standardization as essential for overcoming barriers to trade flows, and the importance of trade facilitation as a factor in reducing trade transaction costs. The delegation of France indicated its support for activities relating to eco-labelling and trade facilitation. Strengthening of trade policy research and increased use of the network of research institutions were also recommended. While the role of government as a facilitator was recognized, closer association and networking of the national chambers of commerce and industries were also recommended to strengthen the role of the private sector in regional cooperation. In order to facilitate business-level contacts, the Commission suggested that immigration procedures needed to be simplified. With regard to the movement of goods, it stressed that unfettered transit of goods should be encouraged and noted the recent agreement between India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan for safe transit through the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Commission also noted the importance of disseminating information effectively through the use of modern technology and the critical role of human resources development. In general, the Commission expressed appreciation of the action initiated towards the implementation of the Delhi Declaration.

217. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, particularly in terms of the implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment and the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer. It expressed appreciation of the activities of the secretariat with regard to the promotion of trade and export-oriented small and medium enterprises. The strengthening of the Regional Investment Information and Promotion Service (RIIPS) through cooperation with institutions that were also concerned with investment promotion was also appreciated by the Commission, as it would be especially beneficial for small and medium enterprises seeking foreign investments, including joint ventures.

218. The Commission approved the proposed revisions to the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, particularly the activities relating to studies on cross-border trade, the strengthening of institutional arrangements for expansion of regional trade, the establishment of a calendar for the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT), and promotion of trade efficiency measures. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers of the Governments of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, India and Malaysia, to host ASPAT fairs in 1996, 1999, 2000 and 2002, respectively. The Commission adopted resolution 51/5 on Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT). It also expressed appreciation of the secretariat's work on the study of regional commodity problems and recommended that in the implementation of the Action Programme, issues related to trade in primary products and raw materials should also be examined, especially the problems of low prices and competition from substitutes, which were of universal concern to the region's developing economies. The secretariat was directed to carry out focused studies on commodity trade problems of concern to the region, in cooperation with commodity organizations.

219. The Commission recommended the revitalization of the Bangkok Agreement and stressed that its membership needed to be expanded and the national list of concessions extended. It noted that the accession of China to the Agreement had been in progress and that the ratification of the accession of Papua New Guinea was at the final stage. Regarding ECDC-TCDC, the Commission recognized its usefulness in strengthening cooperation within the region. It suggested that ESCAP should help strengthen the development of technical know-how in the developing countries as, in its absence, technology transfer was difficult to effect. While some delegations, including those of developing countries, offered their support for TCDC activities, the Commission noted that lack of financial resources, especially at the national level, was a restraining factor.

220. The Commission expressed appreciation of the report of the secretariat on implementing major

mandates and decisions provided under the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, and the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific. It endorsed the recommendations contained in the report, especially the emphasis on the need to pursue open multilateral policies for accelerating the pace of industrial and technological development in the region. The Commission expressed concern at the persisting and growing disparities and emphasized that particular attention should be paid in the secretariat's work to the needs of least developed, land-locked, and island developing economies, and economies in transition. Areas to be targeted should include FDI; technology transfer; private sector development, including privatization; the development of small and medium enterprises; industrial relocation and complementarities, including their negative aspects; industrial and technological skills development; information-sharing; and quality control and standardization.

221. The Commission took note of the activities undertaken by the ESCAP secretariat in implementing resolution 48/8 of 23 April 1992 concerning the problems faced by the disadvantaged economies in transition in the ESCAP region. Those activities included the provision of the services of regional advisers and experts on international trade, transport, water and mineral resources management, and training programmes to upgrade personnel. While ensuring macroeconomic stability and reducing high inflation rates, those economies still faced many constraints in the implementation of wide-ranging economic reforms to overcome the high level of structural unemployment and to establish a sound legal and institutional system. Those countries needed continuing analytical and technical assistance in such areas as macroeconomic management and policy, trade and investment, privatization, industrial restructuring and technological upgrading, transport, and human resources development.

222. The Commission further observed that in view of the shared membership of a number of members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in two regional commissions, ESCAP and ECE, coordination between the two commissions to ensure the optimum utilization of available resources was necessary. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed the desire of his country to participate in ESCAP activities for the economies in transition and offered expertise in cooperation with those countries, incl ng the training of personnel, taking into account also that, in a number of countries with economies in transition, Russian was the main working language.

223. Several countries emphasized the importance of economic and technical cooperation between other developing countries and the economies in transition, especially with neighbouring countries. In that context, the secretariat's activities within the scope of the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project and the project on promoting cooperation in the North-East Asian subregion were highly commended. The greater integration of the Central Asian republics and the Russian Federation with the region was stressed, and it was suggested that those countries be included in the regional trade and investment information networks. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of assistance to the disadvantaged economies in transition by several developing countries.

Policy issues and important developments relevant to the subprogramme

224. The Commission commended the secretariat document on the implications of recent global and regional developments for the trade prospects of the region towards 2000 and beyond (E/ESCAP/981 and Corr.1), and endorsed the general thrust of the analysis with regard to the trends and policy issues for Asian and Pacific trade. It recognized that although the impressive growth of that trade was likely to be sustained in the future, the dynamism had largely been limited to a few countries in East and South-East Asia and there was, therefore, a need to spread the growth momentum to the other developing countries in the region.

225. Among the global developments that were likely to have an impact on the region's trade performance, the Commission reiterated the importance of implementing the Uruguay Round agreements and of maintaining and strengthening the open multilateral trading system in the post-Uruguay Round era. The Commission emphasized that protectionism and attempts towards the formation of economic blocs must be resisted. However, it welcomed the trend towards open regionalism in recent years, and emphasized that regional and subregional groupings and trading arrangements should be consistent with WTO rules. The Commission suggested that increased support from the developed countries in the form of improved market access was required to match and facilitate the reform process in the developing countries.

226. Recognizing that the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements was crucial for Asian and Pacific trade in the coming years, the Commission accorded priority to secretariat activities in support of efforts being made by the developing members to adjust their national policies and economies to the new multilateral trade system. It urged the secretariat to continue its activities in examining the implications of the Uruguay Round agreements for the developing countries, to promote sharing of information and experience, and to provide technical assistance and training programmes to the policy makers from the developing countries to facilitate their future negotiations, with emphasis on the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries as well as

the disadvantaged economies in transition. In particular, the secretariat was requested to undertake activities to develop regional perspectives on issues related to the Uruguay Round, especially emerging concerns such as the linkage of trade with environment and social clauses which could be used as disguised barriers to impede the access of developing countries to developed country markets. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers by the delegations of donor countries to provide assistance in those activities.

227. The Commission suggested that the secretariat, in providing technical assistance to the region's developing economies in the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, should cooperate closely with WTO in monitoring the implementation of those agreements and create better awareness among the countries in the region. The Commission also requested the secretariat to carry out studies on how the developing countries could alleviate the costs and other problems that might be faced in the short term. To conduct studies and special training programmes for policy makers, the Commission recommended that the networking of trade-related research institutions established by the secretariat could be used, thereby facilitating the exchange of experience.

228. The Commission recognized that although the Uruguay Round had strengthened the dispute settlement mechanism, there was a need to provide assistance to the developing countries in the effective use of the mechanism. While liberalization had been pushed forward in traditional areas as well as in agriculture and textiles, it had, at the same time, posed new challenges for the developing countries in such issues as trade-related investment measures (TRIMs) and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs), non-tariff barriers and safeguard measures. Those issues necessitated adjustments in the national policies of those countries relating to trade, investment and intellectual property rights, in order to meet the challenges and secure maximum benefits. The Commission urged the secretariat to address the issue of constraints to intraregional trade posed by non-tariff barriers prevalent in the region. On the application of safeguard measures consistent with the WTO agreement, it was observed that activities to promote the exchange of experience and information would be useful. Regarding trade in services, the Commission noted its growing importance for the region. Some delegations drew attention to the preconditions being established by developed countries in that regard, particularly their insistence on the opening up of financial services. The secretariat was also directed to study the issue of labour mobility in relation to trade in services, taking into account the international conventions established by ILO.

229. With regard to FDI, the Commission noted that its flow to the least developed countries had not been commensurate with their needs, and recommended that measures be initiated to promote a wider spread of FDI flows among recipient countries. It noted that the impact of volatility in international financial markets on FDI flows could be severe and recommended that the secretariat examine that issue as well as the impact of the appreciation of the Japanese yen on FDI flows in the region.

230. The Commission expressed the view that the scope for investment promotion in the manufacturing sector in the ESCAP region was promising, but emphasized that the national economic environment in several countries of the region needed to be improved. It also requested the secretariat to provide technical assistance for policy reforms and institution-building at the national level to attract FDI.

231. The Commission commended the secretariat document on industrial and technological restructuring for greater regional integration: prospects and opportunities in the post-Uruguay Round era (E/ESCAP/982), and endorsed the general thrust of the analysis. It urged the secretariat to analyse the implications of the Uruguay Round agreements on TRIPs and TRIMs for industrial and technological development and restructuring along sectoral lines for different groups of countries, and endorsed the proposal for a regional dialogue on the prospects and challenges facing the developing countries in the aftermath of the Uruguay Round. The Commission recommended that the findings should be disseminated widely.

232. The Commission stressed the importance of technology transfer in the development and industrialization process. It emphasized that technology transfer should be undertaken at minimum cost, and effective and efficient use of technology should be made, taking into account local skills and absorption capabilities. In addition, special attention should be paid to the technology needs of small and medium enterprises, especially those in the export sector, and to technology transfer to rural areas. At the same time, training needs should also be addressed to ensure the proper use of technologies. The Commission accordingly emphasized that the secretariat should strengthen its activities in assisting the least developed, island developing and other disadvantaged countries in promoting effective technology transfer, skills development and technology absorption. Cooperative measures, especially ECDC-TCDC, would be the most promising method in that context.

233. While emphasizing the importance of endogenous capability for development as well as assessment, transfer, adaptation and use of technology, including new and clean technology, the Commission stressed that regional cooperation in science and technology should give priority to building up such capabilities and skills, increasing the role of the private sector, and upgrading the overall technological capabilities, particularly in less dynamic economies. It also suggested that the secretariat should strengthen its

activities aimed at assisting countries in privatization programmes, including the organization of regional and national-level workshops on analysing the positive and negative impacts of privatization, and formulate corrective measures to alleviate the adverse effects.

234. The Commission welcomed the generous offers of the Government of India, to provide technology available in its public sector to less dynamic developing countries at minimum costs; the Government of the Russian Federation, to provide technical training to economies in transition; the Government of the Republic of Korea, to provide technical training for 30,000 people from developing countries by 2010; and the Government of Thailand, to provide assistance in industrial and technological development with respect to small and medium enterprises to the less advanced countries of the Asian and Pacific region, in particular the neighbouring countries of Indo-China. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of China would be continuing support for the activities related to plant-growth regulators, and welcomed the holding of the regional symposium in 1995, as a joint effort with the ESCAP secretariat.

235. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Governments of China and Indonesia for hosting respectively the fifth and sixth meetings of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation. The Commission also thanked UNDP and bilateral donor Governments, in particular, China, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, for their generous financial support to the extrabudgetary activities of the secretariat in implementing its work programme on regional economic cooperation.

236. The Commission expressed appreciation of the close collaboration between UNDP and ESCAP in executing the regional programme on trade and investment for strengthening institutional capacities, promoting intercountry cooperation, and exchanging information and experience, know-how and expertise among the participating Asian and Pacific countries. It also noted the compatibility between the UNDP regional trade programme and the ESCAP Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment.

237. The Commission expressed appreciation of the cooperation between ESCAP and UNIDO in the field of industrial and technological development. It noted with satisfaction that several joint activities had been implemented in the fields of agro-metal industries, agro-processing, and women's involvement in industry and technology.

238. The Commission urged that such cooperation and coordination between the United Nations agencies and ESCAP be continued and further strengthened. It noted with gratitude the assurances by the representatives of UNDP and UNIDO of their continued cooperation and support to ESCAP in activities for the common benefit of the countries of the region.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

239. The Commission endorsed the report of the Governing Board of APCTT on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/983, annex) and expressed appreciation of the activities and the progress made by APCTT in promoting technology transfer, utilization and management, and in national endogenous capability-building. It noted the assistance provided to small and medium enterprises by APCTT in their efforts to develop, transfer, adapt and apply clean technologies, and recognized its core competence as a link between suppliers and seekers of technologies in the Asian and Pacific region.

240. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the Centre's new initiatives and reorientation of its programmes to assist science and technology institutions and promotional agencies in the technology marketing, evaluation, monitoring and assessment aspects with emphasis on environmental management. The Centre had played a catalytic role in assisting countries to establish linkages between institutions engaged in technological research and application. APCTT was urged to continue assistance in human resources development in technology transfer and consultancy development. It was agreed that its national workshops on technology assessment had proved to be very beneficial and topical.

241. The Commission noted the implementation of projects such as the Mechanism for Exchange of Technology Information (METI), and the encouragement of women's participation in the transfer of small-scale productive technologies and promotion of their entrepreneurship. The projects had had a positive impact on both interregional and intraregional technology transactions.

242. The Commission observed the usefulness of the various information promotion channels of APCTT, such as the publications, which contributed substantially in meeting the information requirements of the target groups. In particular, *Asia-Pacific TechMonitor* and *Value Added Technology Information Service* (VATIS), covered various technological areas of considerable relevance to the region.

243. The Commission was informed that the Government of the Republic of Korea intended to dispatch an expert on non-reimbursable loan to APCTT, and that the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology would provide a local office as a focal point of APCTT in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Commission urged other member countries and donors to provide experts on non-reimbursable loan to the Centre.

244. The Commission recommended that the Centre should expand the programmes which attracted the assistance of member countries and donor agencies. Within the context of self-sustainability, the intention of the Centre to charge fees for services rendered, to generate revenue from publications, and to identify sponsors for VATIS were considered timely and appropriate. The Centre's cooperation with other agencies and organizations for better impact and synergy in the implementation of its work programme was appreciated.

245. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Germany, India, the Netherlands, UNDP and UNIDO for the assistance provided to APCTT. It also appreciated the collaboration between UNIDO and APCTT in assessing the training requirements and the existing national support system for developing women entrepreneurship to strengthen cooperation between participating countries.

Environment and sustainable development

246. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/984, E/ESCAP/985 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/986, and E/ESCAP/987 and Corr.1.

Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its second session, and follow-up

247. In the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, the Commission supported the effort of the secretariat to become more active, as regional commissions were viewed as important forums for promoting environmental programmes for the achievement of sustainable development. It commended the secretariat on having formulated an effective and balanced set of recommendations for promoting sustainable development in the region.

248. The Commission identified cooperation at the international, regional and subregional levels as an important factor and a major catalyst in implementing Agenda 21. The development of programmes to strengthen national institutions and cooperation among them was cited as a priority. It recommended that assistance be provided to developing countries to encourage ratification of international conventions and environmental agreements, and to enable them to comply with the relevant provisions.

249. It was extremely important that adequate financial resources should be available in the developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21. Resources mobilized in those countries from domestic sources needed to be supplemented by external assistance. The Commission urged developed countries to honour their commitments in attaining the official development assistance (ODA) levels of 0.7 per cent of GNP as reaffirmed in Agenda 21 and in the World Summit for Social Development, and to make further efforts to transfer environmentally sound technology to developing countries.

250. With regard to follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Commission noted that at the national level, countries were defining priorities, and at the international level, achievements had not gone much beyond ratification of the conventions. The Commission observed that that situation could be attributed to inadequate financial resources, for which it considered the existing arrangement of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its funding level to be far below the requirements. The Commission urged the developed countries to accelerate their funding commitments. It also noted some suggestions for other financing mechanisms.

251. Desertification and land degradation were major environmental problems in many countries of the region. The Commission noted with appreciation the work of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP). It noted that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, of 1994, provided an appropriate mechanism for regional cooperation in that area. It adopted resolution 51/12 on strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific.

252. The Commission noted the development of the action framework on ecotourism in Asia and the Pacific endorsed by the Regional Workshop on Ecotourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bali, Indonesia, in March 1995. It stressed the need for the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region, including the setting up of a working group to monitor the implementation of the action framework.

253. The Commission noted that while there was general agreement that the transfer of environmentally sound technologies was an important concern that required priority facilitation, the question of how to implement such an undertaking on terms favourable to developing countries remained problematic. It was felt that necessary institutional and regulatory arrangements for facilitating the flow of environmentally sound technologies at the global level needed to be put in place.

254. The Commission expressed the view that ESCAP should continue to assist in facilitating the transfer of technologies through the sharing of information, experience and TCDC modalities. Special programmes to assist countries in strengthening endogenous capabilities, and sharing experience and techniques related to technology transfer through programmes such as the Mechanism for Exchange of

Technology Information (METI) being implemented by APCTT, should be further strengthened. It was also necessary that such programmes be oriented towards small and medium industries, as those two groups of industries constituted the backbone of most economies.

255. The region had considerable scientific and technological capabilities that could be shared among the countries of the region at significantly lower cost than for those available in developed countries. In the area of biodiversity conservation, such cooperation could be pursued in the development of regional inventories and creation of regional repositories of genetic material; establishment of regional linkages of scientific and technological capabilities, and optimal utilization of existing institutional capabilities; an active research and development policy, including cooperative training programmes; software development for bioinformatics and electronic networks, and framing of common guidelines regarding access to genetic material; intellectual property rights related to genetic material; and biotechnology.

256. Energy development and management was of great importance to the developing countries of the region. However, in view of the environmental consequences of energy consumption, the Commission called for the promotion of pollution-free resources such as biomass, solar, wind energy and small hydropower as longer-term solutions. At the same time, it held the view that solid fuel, such as coal, would remain a dominant fuel in the near future. It recommended specific training programmes on the introduction of clean coal technology to minimize the environmental impact. The Russian Federation expressed its readiness to assist developing countries in that area.

257. Efficient use of energy not only would provide local and global environmental benefits but was also cost-effective. The Commission therefore emphasized the need for the promotion of energy-efficient technology in the region. It endorsed the initiative of the secretariat in implementing a regional project, Asia Energy Efficiency 21.

258. The Commission noted with appreciation the funding support of UNDP for the Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment (PACE-E). It urged UNDP to provide continuing support for that energy-environment programme. It also urged other funding agencies to enhance their support for energy efficiency technologies and energy conservation programmes.

259. Several countries in the region were in the process of formulating and redefining their national long-term mineral development strategies and policies to guide and conceptualize the expansion and diversification of their mineral industry in a sustainable manner to ensure value-added downstream processing of minerals. Some developing countries of the region were reviewing their structural and regulatory frameworks to promote foreign investment in mineral exploration and mining, so as to ensure a continued supply of raw materials to sustain their mineral-based industries. The Commission expressed its support and urged the secretariat to focus its further assistance on refining and reorientation of the legal and fiscal regimes to promote mineral exploration and environmentally compatible mining practices, with particular emphasis on FDI.

260. The Commission took note of the request to undertake a study on the evaluation of the economic potential of mineral resources in the coastal zones and shelf areas of North-East Asia and the scope of subregional cooperation in their development. Since the far-eastern regions of the Russian Federation were vulnerable to seismic and volcanic risks, it was requested that the activities in those areas be included in the subregional project on natural hazard mapping in East and North-East Asia.

261. The Commission recognized the importance of integrating space technology applications into the national development planning process, and reiterated that the following should be accorded high priority in the secretariat's work plan: the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific; the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development; the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific; as well as the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development launched by the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing in September 1994.

262. The Commission complimented the secretariat on the technical advisory services provided to members and associate members of ESCAP in their national capacity-building efforts, and recommended that such advisory services be continued to meet the existing and emerging demands for successfully implementing the Regional Space Applications Programme.

263. The Commission was informed by the representative of Malaysia that, as follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing in May 1994, a meeting would be held in Malaysia in July 1995 to consider the setting up of a regional permanent committee on the GIS infrastructure. The representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services, United Nations Headquarters, further expanded the subject, indicating that it was providing the initial administrative support.

264. The representative of UNIDO informed the Commission of the continued inter-agency cooperation with ESCAP in rural development programmes, particularly in FADINAP. The Network assisted a

large number of the developing countries in solving their problems concerning the supply, marketing and use of fertilizers. Since its inception in the mid-1970s, it had assisted in increasing food production through the enhanced use of fertilizers, increased the efficiency of production and distribution of fertilizers, and provided advisory services.

265. The Commission was informed by the representative of UNDP that under GEF, it had so far mobilized more than US$ 250 million worth of technical assistance in support of country efforts to restore the balance between development and environment; it was currently collaborating with the secretariat in the implementation of regional programmes on energy and the environment and the application of GIS and remote sensing technologies for environmental and natural resources management. The Commission also noted with appreciation UNDP support to the secretariat for the preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific to be held at the end of 1995. The Conference would formulate a regional action programme that would provide support to the ongoing national efforts to alleviate poverty, which would eventually lead to the achievement of sustainable development.

266. The Commission noted with satisfaction the collaborative efforts of UNEP and the secretariat in fostering exchange of views concerning policy development on a regional and international basis in the field of environment and sustainable development. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UNEP was actively involved in joint programming with the secretariat in the fields of environmental assessment and reporting, environmental management support, which involved interaction with various intergovernmental agencies and United Nations bodies, and the dissemination of public information. As a co-sponsor of the Ministerial Conference, UNEP would assist in providing support to the secretariat, including the preparation of the report on the state of the environment. Since it had been predicted that the management of freshwater resources would be a crucial issue in the next century, UNEP would collaborate with the secretariat in conducting studies and seminars in the region on that important issue.

267. The Commission noted the efforts by the UNCTAD secretariat towards achieving sustainable development in addressing the effective linkages between trade, the environment and development. WHO had assisted the secretariat in the preparation of a chapter on health and the environment for incorporation in the report on the state of the environment for 1995. The representative of IMO informed the Commission of the work of that organization related to marine pollution and combating oil spills, and would collaborate with the secretariat in formulating and conducting regional projects in that field.

268. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its second session, as contained in document E/ESCAP/984, and the recommendations made by the Committee.

Report on the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, and follow-up

269. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the success of the Ministerial Conference, and considered that the Conference had ushered the Asian and Pacific region into a new era in space technology applications for sustainable development.

270. It endorsed the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference and recommended that the secretariat should take all possible steps for their implementation. It also endorsed the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development and the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The launching of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development was considered a landmark event in regional development efforts for space technology applications.

271. The Commission recognized that the Programme was an important one for multilateral cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in the region, and urged the secretariat to incorporate it as a regular component of the programme of work of ESCAP; it recommended that a practical work plan be designed.

272. The Commission recommended that the secretariat continue to play its pivotal and catalytic role in pooling the resources of the region for greater cooperation under the Programme. It was further recommended that the ESCAP infrastructure be strengthened, and that both regular and extrabudgetary resources be mobilized to implement fully the various actions proposed under the Programme.

273. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Ministerial Conference had already had a positive impact in the region. A number of countries had already initiated action by establishing national coordinating committees or mechanisms, identifying national focal points, and formulating national programmes or action plans and related policies on space applications for sustainable development. Several countries had also initiated activities in support of the implementation of the Programme. The Commission also noted with satisfaction that the policy decisions of the Ministerial Conference were already being translated into action at the national level in the short time since

the Conference, and considered that to be highly inspiring.

274. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a number of countries had accorded high priority to space technology applications and, accordingly, had integrated space applications into their national development plans. It agreed that national capability-building in space applications should be strengthened through the support of the Programme, as well as through undertaking necessary research and development programmes and developing their indigenous capability in training and education.

275. The Commission congratulated the secretariat on having already initiated certain activities in pursuance of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, and reiterated its commitment to continued support for the implementation of various national as well as regional initiatives in the implementation of the Programme.

276. The Commission acknowledged the offers made by the following Governments for support to the implementation of the Programme: China announced that it had earmarked US$ 20,000 for the Programme from the China-ESCAP Cooperation Fund; India offered to provide fellowships for 10-month training courses under its SHARES (Sharing of Experience in Space) programme; Japan was to provide an expert to assist the secretariat in implementing the Programme, starting in May 1995; the Russian Federation offered to provide training programmes at the International University being established in Moscow in cooperation with UNESCO and UNIDO; Thailand offered to host the regional information service network meeting in conjunction with the 16th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing and the World Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, WORLDTECH'95, in November-December 1995 in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand; France confirmed its readiness to support the Programme; and the United States of America expressed its intention to participate in it.

277. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the excellent cooperative partnership between UNDP and ESCAP in various regional efforts in the application of space technology for sustainable development in the ESCAP region, particularly in the area of remote sensing and GIS applications. It reiterated that UNDP and ESCAP should continue to collaborate in the implementation of the Programme and that UNDP should include the Programme in its next intercountry programme.

278. The Commission recognized the essential role played by the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Remote Sensing Programme in assisting ESCAP with effective coordination and cooperation in regional remote sensing activities. It expressed support for the recommendation of the Ministerial Conference that the members and associate members reconstitute the Committee as an ad hoc mechanism under the purview of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, to advise, as appropriate, on matters pertaining to the implementation of the Programme. The Commission also supported the recommendation that the scope of the Committee be widened and the level of representation enhanced.

279. The Commission was informed by a number of Governments of their decisions on national focal points. The Government of Indonesia nominated as its national focal point the Chairman of the Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN)/Secretary of the National Council of Aeronautics and Space of Indonesia, which was the highest national coordinating and policy formulation forum in the country. The United States informed the Commission that it had established a national focal point and mechanism for the coordination and promotion of space technology applications within the framework of the presidential-level National Science and Technology Council and the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President.

280. The Commission considered that it was essential for the region to have a cooperative mechanism with long-term sustainability. It therefore urged the secretariat to conduct ad hoc studies for harmonizing various regional initiatives to promote space applications for sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region, as envisaged in the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. It adopted resolution 51/11 on regional cooperation on space applications for environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

281. The Commission noted the efforts in the region to foster the growth of the private sector in commercial uses of space technology and applications, and recommended that that sector should be encouraged to participate in space research and development. A mechanism involving the private sector in space applications programmes should be integrated into national development plans.

282. The Commission recommended that, to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme, the secretariat should provide support in the formulation of national programmes on space application technologies, as well as coordinate those programmes with the work of the relevant United Nations agencies at the global and regional levels.

283. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Ministerial Conference that an inter-agency task force be organized by ESCAP, with banking institutions and related United Nations agencies as members, to discuss cooperative and collaborative projects to be initiated under the Programme.

Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme

284. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the work of the secretariat in the follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme: implementation of Agenda 21 in the ESCAP region; space technology applications for sustainable development; infrastructure development; subregional cooperation in North-East Asia; and natural disaster reduction.

285. The Commission commended the progress in preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be convened in November 1995. It held the view that the Conference would provide a forum for sharing experience and reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, and that it would afford an opportunity to identify common regional issues. The Commission also noted the need for a strong regional action programme for sustainable development for the period 1996-2000, based on the successes and experience gained with action-oriented measures in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. The Commission endorsed the draft provisional agenda for the Conference contained in the annex to document E/ESCAP/986. It also noted, with appreciation, the contributions to the preparation for the Conference and to the 1995 report on the state of the environment by the organizations of the United Nations system, ADB and donor countries.

286. The Commission noted with appreciation that two expert group meetings had been organized by the secretariat as a follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific. It also noted that the meetings had produced a large number of project profiles for implementation under the Regional Space Applications Programme launched by the Conference, and recommended that those project profiles be further reviewed by the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee and the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. The Commission acknowledged the preparatory efforts of the Government of Bangladesh for organizing the 1995 session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee in Dhaka.

287. One delegation mentioned that the recent decision of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Vienna, to locate the United Nations Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the Asian and Pacific region in his country augured well for ESCAP members, and offered to share the fruitful experience gained from its purely application-driven space programme and assist other countries in the region in reaping the benefits of space technology for sustainable development. Another delegation mentioned that its country was actively preparing an advanced and sophisticated training centre on space technology applications, which it considered would eventually become a regional training centre in space technology applications. That delegation considered that the selection procedure followed by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the Centre was controversial, and that it was difficult to say if the decision by the Office in that respect was legal. In view of that, the delegation suggested that the issue be referred to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna.

288. The Commission expressed appreciation of the progress made towards the development of regional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia and looked forward to the rapid implementation of the projects identified at the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held in Beijing in November 1994, in particular those on clean energy production, including demonstration of clean coal technology, biodiversity conservation, databases with intercalibration and analysis, seed stocks for forests and pastures, and analysis of pollution data in the subregion. Financial support from multilateral financing institutions, such as UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and ADB, was encouraged to supplement national efforts. The Commission noted the support given by the secretariat to countries of the region in the field of coastal and marine environmental management, leading to important achievements such as the adoption of the South Asian Seas Action Plan. The secretariat was invited to extend further assistance in that sector.

289. The Commission expressed its support for infrastructure development in the region, including that of energy-efficient transport systems, hydropower development where environmentally feasible, water supply and sanitation, and irrigation projects.

290. The subject of shared water resources was raised by a delegation, highlighting the acute problems created by unilateral withdrawal of water in the upper riparian areas and expressing the hope that the matter could be resolved soon through regional and bilateral efforts. Another delegation explained that the crux of the problem lay in the fact that there was not enough water during the dry season, and emphasized equitable, long-term, comprehensive arrangements, including through augmentation of flows from adjoining basins, to be arrived at through bilateral negotiations with a constructive approach.

291. The Commission also noted that, since natural disasters transcended national boundaries, undertaking natural disaster reduction activities was a duty of all the countries. It considered the impetus given to natural disaster reduction activities through the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and was pleased to note that some countries had given great importance to such activities and developed important policies. The

Commission urged continuing cooperation among its members on activities related to natural disaster reduction.

292. The Commission appealed to donor countries and funding agencies to increase the levels of funding support for activities in implementation of its resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme.

Policy issues and important developments relevant to the subprogramme

293. The Commission, in endorsing the views contained in document E/ESCAP/987 and Corr.1, noted the policy studies undertaken and proposed by the secretariat on the crucial issues of environment and sustainable development, and stressed the need for more studies on the topic to assist policy-making in the developing countries of the region.

294. It expressed concern over the increasingly severe air pollution in the urban centres of the region and the fact that, by 2010, 10 of the 20 largest cities in the world would be located in Asia. It noted that that would bring tremendous problems associated with the management of the urban environment, resulting in degradation of water and air quality. The Commission also observed that the management of a sustainable urban environment would need to be based on efficient land-use and information systems, on mechanisms to resolve conflicts among the different stakeholders, and on the capacity of key management agencies to analyse, formulate and enforce sound urban environmental policies.

295. The Commission called for the implementation of activities that would lead to the development of integrated policies dealing with urban quality, energy, industry and transport.

296. The Commission also recognized that the application of geological principles to land-use planning was of the utmost importance and should be included in the decision-making process, especially in expanding urban centres. It urged the secretariat to provide guidelines on the production and optimal format of large-scale thematic maps on urban/environmental geology for planners and decision makers.

297. Keeping in view the recommendations of various international conferences, the Commission recognized that the linkages between population, environment and development were important in the entire socio-economic development process. It emphasized that among the ultimate objectives of sustainable development was the achievement of a balance between human needs and aspirations on the one hand, and population, resources and the environment, on the other. It called for those issues to be addressed seriously and on a priority basis, and emphasized the need to formulate policies and implement programmes in line with the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

298. The conservation of biodiversity, through the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, and of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests, agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, were also important issues for the region. Cooperation on biodiversity issues might also be pursued in the development of the protection of wetlands.

299. The Commission recognized that efforts to internalize environmental costs through the use of economic instruments should be promoted and strengthened. It noted that some countries of the region had already introduced and applied economic measures and disincentives or incentives to curb pollution and achieve environmental management objectives, and had demonstrated the usefulness and efficiency of such measures. It recommended that the secretariat should carry out in-depth analysis of those experiences for their dissemination in the region. It also welcomed the convening of the workshop on policy measures to change consumption patterns in Seoul in September 1995.

300. The transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing member States was constrained by both commercial and non-commercial factors, including financial and intellectual property rights, as well as indigenous absorptive capabilities. To assist in overcoming those problems, the Commission proposed that the secretariat, in cooperation with regional and international institutions such as UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and ADB, undertake a programme aimed at enhancing national capabilities for the assessment, accessing and application of environmentally sound technologies. It stressed the need for research and development, as well as education and training to develop indigenous capabilities. It supported the view that the private sector in those developed countries that possessed the technologies should be encouraged to transfer them on favourable terms to the developing countries through appropriate policy incentives.

301. The Commission expressed concern that trade measures were being used to achieve non-trade objectives, especially for environmental purposes, and developing countries were facing higher burdens in complying with the new environmental standards being imposed on their exports. Such standards could be unrealistic in the social and economic context of many developing countries, and their imposition would result

in trade distortions and impairment of the capabilities of developing countries to participate in a new global partnership for sustainable development. The secretariat was requested to provide assistance to members on such issues as standards and technical regulations, packaging, labelling and recycling, use of processes and production methods, operation of charges and taxes for environmental purposes and their relationship with trade, and their effect on market access.

302. The Commission, in support of one of the key themes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development — the promotion of sustainable development through trade liberalization — welcomed the secretariat's initiatives in undertaking policy-oriented studies on mutually supportive trade and environment regimes, particularly in the context of the recently concluded Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and urged the secretariat to accord high priority to that activity. In that respect, however, mention was also made of studies being made by UNCTAD and WTO, and the secretariat was requested to cooperate and consult fully with the relevant organizations to avoid any duplication, given the limited financial resources. The secretariat was also requested to assist members and associate members in reporting to the Commission on developments in the Committee on Trade and Environment of WTO. Furthermore, the Commission stressed the need for capacity-building and harmonization of trade policies in the region.

303. The Commission, in noting the importance of market access issues for developing countries in the trade and environment debate, requested the secretariat to undertake in-depth studies on the linkages between environmental measures and market access, particularly in the context of processes and production methods, environmental taxes, technical regulations and standards, and eco-labelling schemes.

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

304. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/988, E/ESCAP/989, E/ESCAP/990, E/ESCAP/991, and E/ESCAP/992 and Corr.1, relating to various aspects of poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. It endorsed the recommendations contained in those documents.

Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, and follow-up

305. The Commission commended the secretariat on the successful outcome of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, held in Jakarta in June 1994. It expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for having generously hosted the Conference. It noted with satisfaction that the Conference had adopted the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, which served as the regional input to the draft global platform of action to be considered for adoption by the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing in September 1995. The secretariat was requested to inform the Commission of the extent to which the outcome of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference would be reflected in the programme of work of ESCAP.

306. The Commission adopted resolution 51/7 on implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific. It stressed the significance of the 10 priority areas identified in the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action and commended the secretariat's efforts to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action and prepare for the Fourth World Conference on Women. It was gratified that many countries had translated the Declaration and Plan of Action into their national languages for wide dissemination. It pointed out that, in the implementation of the Declaration and the Plan, due consideration should be given to the diverse conditions prevailing in the countries of the region.

307. The Commission appealed to donor Governments and agencies to provide further support for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action. It welcomed the proposal of the Republic of Korea to host a regional meeting of national machineries in 1996 in collaboration with ESCAP. It noted with appreciation the statement of Japan that it would continue to support the secretariat's activities concerning women in development, including a subregional activity on women in development in Indo-China.

308. Many delegations informed the Commission of their Governments' preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, including the setting up of national preparatory committees. It was also informed of various subregional activities under way in preparation for the Conference.

309. The Commission expressed concern over the increasing feminization of poverty in the region, in spite of significant economic growth. In particular, it recognized the need for special attention and additional resources to be directed to addressing the problems faced by poor rural women, particularly with respect to their bad working conditions, insecurity of livelihood and limited access to credit and economic opportunities, in line with the resolution on women in agriculture and rural development adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, held in April 1995. It noted that violence against women had emerged as a major obstacle to the advancement of women in many countries of the region. Women in the economies in transition and migrant women workers were also identified as groups deserving special attention.

310. With regard to the issue of women and the eradication of poverty, the Commission emphasized the importance of empowering women, particularly through equal access to adequate and quality education and training as well as health services, so as to enable them to act as agents, in equal partnership with men, in development, especially in the eradication of poverty. It also emphasized that women should not be treated merely as beneficiaries of efforts to eradicate poverty.

311. Noting that only a third of the members and associate members had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Commission called upon those Governments which had not yet ratified it to do so.

312. The Commission emphasized the importance of promoting women's participation in politics and decision-making. It was informed of various initiatives under way to ensure that women representatives were included in elected bodies at the national, provincial and local levels as well as appointive government and consultative bodies.

313. Several delegations reported on the institutional arrangements, especially national machineries or focal points and resource centres, that had been established to strengthen the advancement of women in their respective countries, and on the issues that were being addressed by those entities.

314. The Commission noted with satisfaction the responsiveness of non-governmental, community-based, and private voluntary organizations to meeting the new needs and demands that had emerged among women in the region, particularly at the grass-roots level. It was proposed that Governments and NGOs collaborate to ensure the integration of women's concerns into the development process.

Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, and follow-up

315. The Commission commended the secretariat on the successful convening of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held in Manila in October 1994. It expressed appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for having generously hosted that Conference.

316. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the outcome of that Conference, the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, had formed an important input into the Programme of Action that had been adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, convened in Copenhagen in March 1995. It observed with appreciation that the specific, time-bound goals and targets contained in the regional Agenda for Action would serve as a useful framework within which the members and associate members could proceed to pursue their social development aspirations in a spirit of regional cooperation and collective action. It adopted resolution 51/4 on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

317. The Commission suggested that a meeting might be convened in 1996 to consider the effective implementation of the Agenda for Action. That meeting would be in preparation for a ministerial conference on social development to be organized in 1997, as decided by the Manila Conference and as provided for in the world Programme of Action. The Government of Sri Lanka expressed interest in hosting the regional meeting in Colombo in 1996, with special reference to the theme of poverty alleviation. In addition, the Government of Australia expressed interest in the possibility of holding a meeting at the regional or subregional level on the regional implementation of the outcome of the World Summit.

318. The Commission proposed that a regional monitoring system should be established to generate feedback on national implementation and evaluation of the Agenda for Action, with specific reference to progress towards attaining the goals and targets it contained. It was suggested, furthermore, that a regional report on the state of poverty, with special attention to unemployment, population, education and health, be prepared to increase public awareness of the seriousness of the poverty issue and the urgent need for measures to address it.

319. The Commission called upon all donor agencies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to provide substantive and financial support to members and associate members, particularly the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries, and economies in transition, for implementation of the Agenda for Action. It was suggested that ESCAP convene a regional meeting of donors, including international financial institutions, to consider ways in which they could assist the ESCAP region in meeting the targets identified in the Manila and Copenhagen Declarations.

320. The 20:20 concept on social development, referring to the relative percentages of recipient country budgets and donor aid budgets to be spent on basic social services, was considered. It was proposed that ESCAP address that issue at future meetings with a view to promoting the mobilization of new and additional resources for social development and poverty alleviation. Attention was also drawn to the need for concerted action on debt relief and the promotion of an external environment conducive to free trade, including the free movement of factors of production, to support social development in the region.

Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to poverty alleviation

321. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress being made through the secretariat's efforts in the implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions pertaining to poverty alleviation.

322. It underscored the value of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, in guiding national efforts to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Decade. Recognizing the importance of multisectoral measures to increase the coverage of people with disabilities, particularly those in rural areas, the Commission urged the secretariat to strengthen its efforts to promote regional cooperation on disability issues and provide technical assistance concerning the promotion of the participation of rural people with disabilities in poverty alleviation programmes. In that regard, the Governments of China and India expressed their continued interest in collaborating in the secretariat's regional cooperation activities.

323. The Commission noted with satisfaction the secretariat's human resources development activities in promotion of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. It reaffirmed that human resources development was a cornerstone of the development process and emphasized the need to prioritize women's concerns in human resources development activities. In particular, it called for greater attention to be given in regional activities to the girl child, to redress gender imbalance in policies and programmes for the alleviation of poverty in the region.

324. In the light of the globalization of economies and the entry of large numbers of transnational corporations into consumer industries, the secretariat was called upon to include in its programme of work follow-up activities to Commission resolution 48/7 of 23 April 1992 on guidelines for consumer protection. The Government of India expressed its willingness to cooperate with ESCAP in regional cooperation activities, such as seminars to share regional experience and the provision of technical support. The Commission noted the resource constraints currently faced by the secretariat and requested it to explore funding support for the implementation of activities in that area.

325. The valuable contribution of non-governmental, community-based, and private voluntary organizations in complementing government efforts in poverty alleviation was recognized. The Commission stressed the need for Governments to extend support to NGOs as a means of enhancing their role in capacity-building towards people-centred and sustainable development.

326. Recognizing the significant relationship between urbanization and economic development, the Commission noted with satisfaction the activities under way in the ESCAP region, including those of the secretariat, to promote participatory human settlements development. It was noted that many countries were already implementing the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization adopted at the fiftieth session of the Commission, and that many had facilitated the monitoring of implementation of the Plan by designating national focal points. The Commission called for further vigorous efforts to implement the Plan.

327. The Commission supported the convening of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum late in 1995 and urged all members and associate members to contribute to and participate in that key preparatory activity to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996. The secretariat was requested to provide regional inputs to that Conference and facilitate the establishment of urban forums for the exchange of information and experience within the region, in collaboration with other concerned agencies.

328. The Commission was pleased to note that several countries were taking effective steps to make shelter more accessible for low-income groups, and requested the secretariat to promote those activities.

Policy issues and important developments

329. The Commission reaffirmed its concurrence with the recommendations of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development adopted at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in August 1992, and the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development, convened in Cairo in September 1994. It particularly welcomed the recommendation of the Cairo Conference specifying the active implementation role of the regional commissions.

330. It agreed that an inter-organizational task force on population and development should be initiated to promote a coherent regional strategy. The secretariat was called upon to further its work on monitoring and research in the population-related areas of reproductive health, the family, ageing and international migration. UNFPA indicated that it would make every effort to ensure the continuation of the provision of a large portion of its assistance to the ESCAP region.

331. The Commission endorsed the proposals contained in the document before it (E/ESCAP/991) concerning promotion of the socio-economic advancement of rural areas through industrialization and the introduction of science and technology. It called upon the secretariat to enhance regional cooperation in technology transfer and industrialization of rural areas to meet regional needs for increased productivity and employment, as well as better living standards for the rural population, and to combat rural-urban migration.

The Commission called for special attention to be given to technologies that would contribute to economic growth, while at the same time increasing employment and the labour productivity of the poor. The offers of the Governments of China, India and Malaysia to share their experience in that regard were welcomed.

332. The Commission noted that small and medium industries provided productive employment for significant numbers of poor people in the region. It recommended that the secretariat continue assisting such industries in promoting their competitiveness through the facilitation of entrepreneurial and other skills development, marketing, and access to capital and technological upgrading, especially through the blending of traditional and new technologies, without incurring significant losses of productive employment.

333. The Commission considered the impact of economic and trade liberalization on rural poverty. It highlighted the critical importance of people's participation in rural poverty alleviation programme design and implementation. It endorsed the project on poverty alleviation in South Asian countries through sister-district arrangements to enhance the participation of the poor. The need for regional support of the development of the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors in rural areas, as a means of expanding employment opportunities and accelerating rural poverty alleviation, was emphasized.

334. Several delegations informed the Commission of initiatives under way in their countries to promote broad participation in anti-poverty programmes, particularly in the light of the adverse effects of structural adjustment programmes on the weaker sections of society. The Commission noted the need for the strengthening of mechanisms to promote the participation of the destitute in anti-poverty programmes.

335. The Commission addressed the critical issue of social protection for disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups, including the chronically poor and the elderly. In view of the widespread and severe economic and social distress among the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in many countries of the region, the Commission recommended that social protection should form an important aspect of a development policy of growth with equity.

336. The Commission acknowledged the urgent need for social protection for the large numbers of workers in the informal sector, who were more likely than those in the formal sector to be living in poverty. It recommended that Governments should consider alternative approaches based on the self-help and participatory methods of traditional systems of social protection for the poor directed at strengthening the family, village and neighbourhood or community as providers of social protection to dependent members. The Commission highlighted the goal in the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region to formulate an overall policy framework that would accord priority to social protection for all.

337. Attention was drawn to the increasing abuse of drugs by youth and children, especially among the poor. The Commission observed that since drug abuse by injection and the sharing of drug paraphernalia were common in some areas, drug abusers in the region constituted one of the main vectors for the transmission of HIV, leading to AIDS. It called for a redoubling of efforts by ESCAP, in close collaboration with UNDCP, to combat the rapidly spreading problems of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS at the regional, subregional and national levels. The Commission adopted resolution 51/10 on regional cooperation for the eradication of the demand for drugs subject to abuse and related problems.

338. The Commission voiced concern over the ramifications of the recent rapid increase in the prevalence and intensity of drug abuse in many countries of the region, especially such related social problems as juvenile delinquency and street crime. The rise in violent crime, particularly its effects on women and children, was stressed. The Commission expressed appreciation of the services being provided to Governments by the regional adviser on crime prevention and criminal justice administration.

339. Noting the region's need for technical guidelines covering planning and building design to improve disabled people's access to the built environment, the Commission endorsed the guidelines on the promotion of non-handicapping physical environments for disabled persons, which had been finalized and adopted by the Regional Meeting on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Disabled and Elderly Persons, convened in November 1994. It called on all countries in the region to apply those guidelines in accordance with their national circumstances.

340. The Commission expressed concern over the special needs of young people living in poverty. It called for concerted action to combat youth unemployment in order to forestall related threats to social and political stability. Several delegations underscored the need to increase the attention given to children and young people, in particular girl children, including those at risk of being exploited as child labourers and prostitutes.

341. The Commission noted that, with the accelerated pace of urbanization in many developing countries over the past several decades, the incidence of poverty had not declined as fast in urban areas as the concentrated economic growth in those areas had led many to expect. To address that problem, effective and innovative national, subnational and local urban development and management policies were required. The Commission expressed its support of the secretariat's activities to assist members and associate members in addressing the issues of urbanization and urban management.

342. The Commission urged the secretariat to promote the exchange of information and greater collaboration and coordination among international and national agencies, as well as NGOs, carrying out programmes for poverty alleviation in the region. The secretariat was requested to review and widely disseminate, on a priority basis, information on the successful experiences of member countries through case-studies, seminars, training courses, TCDC exchange visits and advisory services.

343. The Commission expressed appreciation of the contributions of the following donors to the secretariat's work under the subprogramme on poverty alleviation during the current biennium: the Governments of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand; UNDP, UNDCP, UNFPA, UNESCO and ADB; the Christian Conference of Asia, Honda Motor Workers' Union, International Council on Social Welfare, International Council of Voluntary Agencies and Swedish Organisation of Handicapped International Aid Foundation.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

344. The Commission was informed of the successful implementation of the collaborative research and development projects of the Centre, covering a broad range of issues concerning crop diversification, upland farming, marketing, human resources development and information services.

345. It noted with satisfaction, and expressed its continuing support for, the Centre's programme, which had expanded in 1994 and was expected to grow further in 1995. The programme had been structured in line with the directions indicated in the Strategic Plan for the Centre. It welcomed the close cooperation between the Centre and national, regional and international agricultural research and development institutes and organizations, including several United Nations agencies, as well as institutions affiliated with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

346. The Commission suggested that the Centre should strengthen and undertake new activities related specifically to rural poverty alleviation, market development, crop diversification and the effects of trade liberalization on producers of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber crops. It also suggested that the Centre continue to evaluate the impact of its programme on beneficiaries and adapt its activities accordingly to ensure maximum effectiveness.

347. Noting the increase in the Centre's programme resources in 1994, the Commission expressed concern over the continuing weak financial base of the Centre. It observed that, in spite of the recent increases in and commencement of contributions from several developing members, those funds remained insufficient to cover recurrent expenditures. Concern was expressed over the expectation that the situation would worsen in 1995 unless a further increase in contributions was made.

348. The Commission reiterated the appeal of the Governing Board of the Centre to members and associate members to make contributions of at least the minimum threshold levels indicated at the forty-third session of the Commission, or at higher levels, according to their capacity. It also called for a further strengthening of programme resources and provision of the services of experts by Governments, donor agencies and partner institutes so as to ensure the effective implementation of programmed activities.

349. Acknowledging the need for more effective fund-raising for the Centre and in view of the positive results of the informal consultative meeting held in Jakarta in March 1994, organized under the auspices of the Government of Indonesia, the Commission recommended that, in the future, such meetings should be organized jointly with member Governments.

350. It expressed appreciation of the contributions received from the Governments of Austria, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, from UNDP, through FAO, and from Canadian University Services Overseas.

351. Heartfelt thanks were extended to the Director of the Centre, Mr Seiji Shindo, who was scheduled to retire at the end of June 1995. The Commission hoped that his accomplishment would be further developed and strengthened in the future by his successors.

Transport and communications

Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme

352. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/993 and E/ESCAP/994.

353. It reviewed the progress of implementation of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific; it noted with appreciation the close relations between the relevant agencies, and the leading role played by the secretariat.

354. It expressed concern about the lack of funding support for 13 activities under the regional action programme for phase II of the Decade. It advised the agencies to prioritize the projects, and urged donor countries and agencies to support the priority projects.

355. The Commission reiterated its strong support for the integrated ALTID project, and stressed the particular importance of the following projects: (a) operationalization of the northern routes of the Trans-Asian Railway linking North-East Asia with Europe via both the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, with land transport connections to seaports in the south and the east, particular attention being paid to the needs of the eight land-locked countries *en route*; (b) corridor studies to identify major problems in the transport of goods and passengers, particularly at border-crossings, and to suggest ways and means to overcome those problems; (c) the development of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway databases; and (d) a study on the road network connecting China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean peninsula; (e) the study on land transport corridors between Central Asia and Europe; and (f) the Kerman-Zahedan railway section.

356. The Commission noted with appreciation the inauguration of the railway route Bafq-Bandar Abbas, which also served the needs of the Central Asian republics, and the progress on the construction of the railway link between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan, the only link currently missing between the two countries. The Commission recognized that, when completed in 1996, it would make possible a new "silk rail route" linking China and Europe via the ECO region.

357. The Commission stressed the need for countries to consider acceding to the international conventions listed in resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures. It invited the ASEAN, ECO and SAARC secretariats to assist in the implementation of that resolution. It requested the secretariat to continue organizing subregional seminars on the implications of accession to land transport facilitation conventions, with priority attention being given to the land-locked countries in the region.

358. In the context of resolution 50/8 of 13 April 1994 on the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia, the Commission noted with satisfaction the completion of the feasibility study on Trans-Asian Railway linkages between China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Korean peninsula and the Russian Federation. It also noted a request for a similar study on road networks. In addition, it noted the study on prospects for container shipping and port development for the East Asia subregion, which had been completed in 1994.

359. The Commission noted with interest the activities to promote compressed natural gas (CNG) as an environmentally friendly fuel on the basis of a demonstration project in Pakistan. It stressed the need for the early publication of a technical manual for such conversion and for a regional workshop to disseminate the experience. It also emphasized the need for giving urgent attention to issues related to the transport of dangerous goods in the context of environmental protection activities.

360. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the secretariat's work on multimodal transport and recognized the useful purpose served by the transport corridor study carried out from Singapore through Malaysia, Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. The secretariat planned to hold a South-East Asian subregional seminar on multimodal transport, funded by Canada and UNDP, in Bangkok in October 1995. The secretariat noted the request to assist in the formulation of an action plan for the development of multimodal transport in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

361. The Commission expressed appreciation of the seminars organized jointly by ESCAP and IMO on the facilitation of maritime traffic, and noted that two further seminars were to be held in Fiji and Papua New Guinea later in the year. It noted with satisfaction the implementation of projects aimed at improving the performance of Pacific island ports and shipping, and the request for additional assistance in improving port management information, reducing cargo-handling costs and increasing the efficiency of customs operations. It emphasized the urgent need to develop policies that would enable many old and obsolete ships currently in service to be upgraded or replaced, and requested that assistance be provided for ship financing. It also noted the request of the Philippines for further assistance for the subsequent adoption of international maritime labour standards in view of its impact on the protection of migrant workers.

362. The Commission noted the importance of inland water transport as a fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly mode of transport which had great potential to serve rural populations living in otherwise inaccessible areas. It expressed appreciation of the efforts being made by the secretariat to establish management information systems and strengthen training facilities in inland water transport and dredging. It recognized the usefulness of the Regional Seminar on the Environmental Aspects of Dredging Activities in Asia and the Pacific, held in October 1994.

363. The delegation of Bangladesh stated that, since 1977, the issue of establishing a regional inland waterway training centre in Bangladesh had been under consideration by the Commission at various sessions. After noting the clarification provided by the secretariat, the Commission decided that the issue of the viability and funding of the proposed regional inland water transport centre be placed on the agenda of the second session of the Committee on Transport and Communications, scheduled to be held from 6 to 10 November 1995.

364. The Commission recognized the importance of freight forwarding in the development of trade in the ESCAP region. It noted with appreciation that the secretariat had organized a country-level workshop in Hanoi and a subregional workshop in Ho Chi Minh City in March 1995, and it urged the secretariat to organize similar training workshops on the subject in the future. It also noted the request of Thailand for assistance in designing executive diploma courses in freight forwarding.

365. The Commission appreciated the work being undertaken by the secretariat to develop guidelines for commercialization and private sector involvement in ports, dredging and inland waterways, which complemented the initiatives of member countries. It expressed satisfaction with the assistance provided to Cambodia on the rehabilitation of the Port of Sihanoukville, and took note of the request for further assistance in infrastructure project evaluation, development of inland container depots, port tariff structure, privatization, computer usage and port management.

366. The Commission complimented the secretariat on the preparation of the Maritime Policy Planning Model (MPPM), and the Workshop on Implementation of Port Capacity Modules of the MPPM, held in the Islamic Republic of Iran in July 1994.

367. The Commission expressed gratitude to UNDP and the bilateral donors, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands and Republic of Korea, for providing financial support for the implementation of the regional action programme of the Decade.

Tourism

368. The Commission reaffirmed the important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of the Asian and Pacific region. It noted that tourism in the region had grown rapidly during the past decade, surpassing the growth rates in other regions of the world. The Commission stressed that tourism should be given greater priority in the ESCAP programme and urged the secretariat to intensify its activities in that sector. It recommended that Professional regular staff resources for the tourism activities should be expanded.

369. The Commission noted with satisfaction that many countries in the region had benefited from the recent tourism activities of ESCAP, particularly the following: the Workshop on Tourism Development in Countries along the Mekong River, held in Kunming, China, in December 1994; the Regional Workshop on Ecotourism Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, in March 1995; studies on the economic impact of tourism and environmental management of tourism, and the cultural impact of international tourism; and the advisory services rendered to various countries.

370. The Commission noted that tourism played a particularly important role in the economies of Pacific island countries, and requested the secretariat to pay special attention to their needs. It also noted that tourism in Pacific island countries had a strong linkage with infrastructure development. In that context, the Commission was pleased to note that a workshop on integrated tourism planning in Pacific island countries would be held in Port Vila in June 1995. The Commission noted that Pacific island countries, as well as Mongolia, had great potential to develop ecotourism. It took note of the interest of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in promoting tourism together with other Central Asian republics and neighbouring countries.

371. The Commission supported the recommendation of the Expert Group Meeting on the Follow-up to the Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century (see E/ESCAP/980/Add.1) that ESCAP should convene an intergovernmental meeting on tourism development. It also supported its recommendation that the possibility of establishing a regional network of tourism training institutes should be explored.

372. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for its continued financial support for the implementation of tourism activities, and for the provision of a tourism expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

Revised draft New Delhi action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific

373. The Commission complimented the secretariat on the preparation of the revised New Delhi action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific, following the deliberations of the Commission at its fiftieth session, and the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its fourth session and the Steering Group at its fifth meeting. It held the opinion that the draft embodied the concerns of the countries of the region in the provision of infrastructure facilities and the delivery of infrastructure services and that the proposals enunciated at both the national and regional levels were pragmatic.

374. The Commission noted that in order for the action plan to succeed, it was crucial for countries to develop national plans which addressed the issues specific to their circumstances and that there was a need for resource mobilization for the implementation of the activities under the regional action programme. It also stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between ESCAP and the subregional organizations, and between the subregional organizations themselves, as a means of facilitating infrastructure development.

375. The Commission adopted resolution 51/8 on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

376. The Commission endorsed the recommendation that a ministerial conference should be held in 1996, instead of the scheduled ad hoc intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation of phase II (1992-1996) of the Decade programme and to launch the New Delhi Action Plan. It held the view that the conference would provide an opportunity to increase the commitment and involvement of Governments in the region and ensure a smooth transition from the Decade to the Action Plan, thereby allowing the continuation of a number of important projects.

377. Recalling the suggestion made at the fiftieth session for enlargement of the scope of work of the Committee on Transport and Communications and for tourism to be included in its title, the Commission requested the Committee to review its terms of reference at its second session, in anticipation of the future review of the conference structure of the Commission. It also expressed the view that tourism should be given high priority.

378. The Commission stressed the importance of rural infrastructure development, not only for the support of economic growth and development but also for access and poverty alleviation.

379. The Commission stressed the importance of sharing of experience and information as a means of accelerating infrastructure development. The important role that emerging information and communications technologies could play in that process was recognized. It also proposed the establishment of a regional information system on infrastructure, including databases of regional expertise available in the private and public sectors in various infrastructure areas, including design, consultancy, supervision and quality control.

380. The Commission noted the difficulty of depending on domestic tax revenues for the development and maintenance of infrastructure facilities and services. It stressed the need to examine the mobilization of domestic private capital and FDI for infrastructure development.

381. The Commission noted that the World Infrastructure Forum - Asia, 1994, held in Jakarta, had recommended that an Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance (AIDA) be established to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors in infrastructure development and that a similar Forum should be convened in 1996, and on a biennial basis thereafter. The Commission supported the establishment of the Alliance and endorsed the suggestion of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its fourth session that the secretariat be represented on the steering committee and participate actively in the work of the Alliance.

382. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of India to host the ministerial conference on infrastructure as well as the World Infrastructure Forum - Asia, 1996. It decided that the Forum should be held in conjunction with the ministerial conference. One of the major advantages of that arrangement would be that ministers could respond to questions which reflected the policy concerns of the private sector, thereby creating a more friendly environment for the private sector to participate actively in infrastructure development.

383. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat and other concerned agencies for preparing the 119 project profiles contained in an information paper (ESCAP(LI)/INF.3). It recommended that the profiles should be further reviewed and prioritized by the secretariat together with the concerned agencies. They should then be examined in detail by the Committee on Transport and Communications at its second session, to be held in November 1995, at which the Committee should make recommendations in the form of a regional action programme on infrastructure to be placed before the ministerial conference on infrastructure.

384. The representative of IMO informed the Commission of the success of the projects that were being executed jointly with ESCAP, under the regional action programme of the Decade, with particular emphasis on the training programme being organized to promote the facilitation of maritime traffic. IMO also expressed its desire to participate actively in the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan.

385. The representative of UNCTAD highlighted the areas in which UNCTAD and ESCAP were cooperating effectively in the execution of transport facilitation projects, particularly multimodal transport, and in providing assistance to Governments with regard to the implementation of conventions relating to land transport, cross-border trade, and maritime legislation.

386. The representative of ICAO pointed out that civil aviation development was a key to supporting economic growth and was particularly relevant to land-locked and island countries. Rapid technological developments were continuing with the attendant challenges in policy-making and planning, and infrastructure and human resources development. Without financial and technical assistance, the requirements would not be met. It was pointed out that of the 10 projects proposed as part of the Decade programme, 6 projects remained unfunded, including one given priority by Governments in the Pacific. It was also mentioned that there were 11 projects proposed for the New Delhi Action Plan. The representative of ICAO mentioned that ICAO had no regular programme funding for technical assistance, which had to be funded from external sources. Assistance was therefore needed from the donors to enable it to implement those activities.

387. The representative of UNDP noted the revised New Delhi Action Plan and expressed the view that the proposed activities under the Plan would be demand-driven, result-oriented and cost-effective, with direct benefits to the countries. UNDP recognized the importance of infrastructure development to achieve sustainable economic and social development. It had to be recognized, however, that while improvements had to be made in transport and communications services, they were not only for economic growth but also for its equitable distribution. Transport and communications development was essential in the process of poverty alleviation through the generation of employment opportunities and through the advancement of women, while ensuring the protection and regeneration of the environment. UNDP had supported the Decade programme by earmarking $12 million for it; the programme involved nine international agencies and was coordinated by ESCAP. UNDP looked forward to continuing to work closely with ESCAP and the agencies, as well as Governments and others, to achieve those aims.

388. The delegation from ECE noted that the dual membership of a number of countries of the ESCAP and ECE regions required a high level of cooperation between the two commissions. In that respect, it was noted that the organizations had been working closely in the area of electronic data interchange (EDI) and facilitation of land transport. The delegation advised the Commission that a draft ECE convention on international customs transit procedures for the carriage of goods by rail had been prepared and was being considered by ECE and the Committee of the Organization for Cooperation between Railways at a meeting to be held in Warsaw in May 1995. The delegation proposed that practical workshops and seminars should be arranged jointly between ECE, UNCTAD and ESCAP to consider problems arising in the areas of infrastructure, multimodal transport, border-crossing and transit issues.

389. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity informed the Commission of the close working relations with ESCAP since its inception. It also reported on a number of activities completed as part of the Decade programme. APT stressed that shortage of resources had meant cut-backs in the original plans. It was stated that telecommunications was a prerequisite to economic development and that without the development of modern communications services, member countries would be unable to improve the living standards of their population, extend health care, eliminate illiteracy, improve education and promote the marketing of goods and services. It was further stated that the image of telecommunications as merely telephone, telex and facsimile machines was no longer accurate, as the convergence of communications and computer technology was moving towards the "information superhighway".

390. The Commission noted with interest ECO activities relating to the development of transport in the ECO subregion through the implementation of the outline plan for the development of the transport sector of the ECO countries, prepared with ESCAP involvement and adopted in Almaty in October 1993. It was noted that ECO was playing a vital role in the implementation of the ALTID project and in promoting accession to the land transport facilitation conventions. The following ECO activities were noted with interest: (a) the creation of the "silk" railway by the end of 1996; (b) the upgrading of the Asian Highway routes in the region; (c) the plan for a rail bypass of Lake Van in Turkey to eliminate a major bottleneck of the "silk" railway; (d) the establishment of joint ECO shipping and air companies; and (e) the introduction of transport facilitation measures.

391. The representative of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations stated that infrastructure development was essential to the efficient and speedy movement of trade, and that the freight forwarding industry played an important role in trade expansion. He noted the important work undertaken by the secretariat in multimodal transport and freight forwarding, and hoped that such activities would be continued so that the freight forwarders would continue to make a significant contribution to the economic progress of the region.

Statistics

Report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session, and follow-up

392. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/995), and the report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of Commission resolution 50/5 on the status of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/996).

393. It noted with appreciation the concise but informative report of the Committee on Statistics, and endorsed its conclusions and recommendations, including the draft programme of work in statistics for the biennium 1996-1997. The record participation of members and associate members in the Committee reflected its increasing importance as the focus of regional statistical development. In that regard, the Commission recognized the efforts of the Pacific island countries to participate in the Committee session, despite their financial constraints.

394. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Committee had made recommendations on issues which were relevant and timely, in view of the growing and urgent need to enhance national statistical services and capabilities in the region. It expressed appreciation of the initiatives undertaken by the Committee and the secretariat in providing essential guidelines for timely

processing and dissemination of statistical information by national authorities, and in maintaining strong coordination with other organizations towards that end.

395. The Commission also expressed satisfaction with the proposed revised terms of reference of the Committee and the arrangements for its bureau. It observed that improvements in the functioning of the Committee would bring about greater involvement of national statistical offices in the regional programme of activities, as well as continuity of leadership and guidance between the sessions of the Committee. That would also allow ESCAP to play an important role in strengthening international statistical cooperation.

396. The Commission acknowledged the importance of statistics for social and economic development planning and policy-making. The timely and accurate collection and compilation of statistics aided policy makers in taking crucial decisions. It noted that the analysis of economic indicators was particularly relevant in the current era of economic reform.

397. In the field of economic statistics, the Commission endorsed the importance of implementing, as promptly as possible, the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA). It noted that implementation of the 1993 SNA required not only sustained country efforts but also regional cooperation. The Commission emphasized the importance of providing members and associate members with technical assistance and training towards that end. It endorsed the activities organized by the secretariat, including two subregional seminars on the 1993 SNA, and thanked the Government of Australia for providing host facilities for the Pacific subregional seminar held in Canberra. The Commission noted with satisfaction that work on implementing the 1993 SNA had already been initiated by some countries in the region.

398. The Commission took note of the activities undertaken by the secretariat in organizing phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP). It expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for providing financial support, as well as personnel, for that task. It welcomed the World Bank initiative of adopting a reduced information approach to extend the coverage of ICP in the region. The Commission also noted with interest the initiatives taken by members in developing statistical data series to meet their needs, such as in the area of FDI.

399. The Commission decided to proclaim the period 1995-1999 the quinquennium for improving civil registration and vital statistics in the ESCAP region, and emphasized that more focused action should be taken in that important field by the member and associate member Governments, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

400. Recognizing that the secretariat had great potential for assisting countries and areas in their efforts to improve demographic statistics, the Commission recommended that suitable technical meetings and other regional activities be organized by ESCAP. It emphasized the important role that population and housing censuses played as a source of data and recommended that, as in the past, subregional working group meetings be organized and their recommendations disseminated to assist countries in planning their population and housing censuses of the 2000 round. The Commission acknowledged the technical assistance available in the area of population statistics through the UNFPA Country Support Teams, and requested UNFPA to further strengthen them by adding a post for a sampling and household surveys adviser for the Bangkok and Kathmandu teams.

401. In the area of social statistics, the Commission noted the increasing emphasis placed by some member countries on improving statistics concerning poverty and gender issues. It noted with appreciation the activities organized by some countries under the project being implemented by ESCAP on the improvement of gender statistics.

402. The Commission noted that environmental problems were of concern to most of the members and associate members, and that many of them were according priority to the collection and compilation of environment statistics. Collection of environment statistics was necessary for taking appropriate measures in managing natural resources and for addressing issues concerning environmental degradation.

403. The Commission observed that the discipline of environment statistics was relatively new, and that the necessary expertise to collect and compile environmental data was lacking in most developing countries of the region. It recommended that the secretariat should assist countries in the improvement of environment statistics, through such means as preparing and disseminating methodological handbooks. The secretariat was also urged to organize some training activities in that field. The Commission appreciated the fact that the Central Bureau of Statistics of Indonesia had hosted the regional Seminar on Environment Statistics in Jakarta in January 1995, and recognized that the recommendations and suggestions made during the Seminar would be valuable to members and associate members in the development of their environment statistics.

404. The Commission also noted the growing interest of countries in environmental and resource accounting. It observed that some countries of the region had been involved in undertaking case-studies to establish methodologies for the compilation of environment and natural resource accounts, *inter alia* for environmental management and for the integration of environmental concerns into macroeconomic and sectoral planning. In that regard, the Commission heard with interest that the Government of Japan was planning to organize an

international symposium on integrated environmental and economic accounting jointly with the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, in Tokyo in March 1996.

405. The Commission commended the secretariat for collecting, compiling and disseminating relevant and useful statistical information on members and associate members in the region, and noted that the Russian Federation now fell within that category. The information that had been disseminated was useful not only to members and associate members, but also to the donors, in identifying areas for technical assistance. The Commission stressed the need for the dissemination of high-quality, timely and responsive data to address the rapidly changing social and economic requirements of the region.

406. The Commission appreciated the tangible progress the secretariat had made in developing the ESCAP Statistical Information System (ESIS). It noted that the core system was being programmed and would be available to users in the secretariat soon. ESIS, which was being implemented with the latest user-friendly, client-server technology, had the potential to become a key regional repository for reliable and comparable economic and social data. The Commission strongly urged the secretariat to allocate adequate resources for the further development of ESIS, in order to make it accessible by the members and associate members as soon as possible. The Commission emphasized that ESIS should be as open as possible, and urged that a full range of modern technical means, including on-line connection, should be used in data collection and dissemination. It recognized the potential of ESIS and electronic data transfer in improving the timeliness of ESCAP statistics.

407. While noting that most countries were upgrading their central statistical information systems and that some were starting to use national networks in data collection and dissemination, the Commission anticipated that the international electronic exchange of statistical data and information would also increase. That was one of the reasons why international standards for statistical concepts and definitions, data collection and coding, and structures of statistical messages were becoming increasingly important and required more attention by the secretariat. The Commission asked the secretariat to explore the possibility of providing advisory services in improving national statistical information systems in general, and on-line services in particular.

408. The Commission noted that computerized information systems for planning and management were deficient, and often missing altogether, in the small Pacific island countries. It requested the secretariat and SIAP to pay greater attention to human resources development in that subregion, in order to set up and maintain basic computerized statistical information systems.

409. The Commission recognized the growing importance of information technology in management and administration, but acknowledged the difficulties that the public sector was facing in trying to keep abreast of the accelerating rate of innovations in that field. It endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Statistics concerning public-sector computerization, and supported in particular the training of middle-level and senior-level management in information technology. It agreed with the Committee that guidelines to promote national information technology development and information on available software packages would be useful for members and associate members.

410. The Commission welcomed the experimental presentation of the programme of work of ESCAP and SIAP. That integrated approach, when extended to include other agencies, would facilitate coordination efforts among agencies, as well as minimize the duplication of activities. In that connection, the Committee noted with appreciation the particularly close links that ESCAP and SIAP enjoyed with the statistical work of the South Pacific Commission.

411. The Commission commended the secretariat on the handling of its statistical activities and its promotion of statistical activities in the region. It was noted, however, that the effectiveness of the Statistics Division in assisting those countries needing support was governed by the limited number of experts it could field.

412. The Commission noted with gratitude that, since the fiftieth session, the secretariat had received bilateral donor assistance for its activities in statistics from Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and Sweden, while Fiji and Indonesia had provided host facilities for meetings. Multilateral assistance had been generously provided by ADB, UNFPA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

413. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers made by some statistically advanced countries to continue giving favourable consideration to the provision of advice and assistance to developing countries in the establishment of statistical operations and the training of staff.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

414. In discussing the activities of SIAP, the Commission noted the importance of the statistical training that the Institute had been providing to official statisticians of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific; in 1994 the Institute had trained 552 statisticians from the region. Many countries recalled the valuable benefits they had received from SIAP training activities over the 25 years of the Institute's operation.

415. The Commission found the training programmes conducted by the Institute relevant and useful; it

supported the continuation of those activities in order to improve the statistical capabilities of the developing countries of the region, particularly those of the least developed and island developing countries. Further development of SIAP training programmes, to keep pace with the socio-economic advances in the region, was also recommended. The Commission encouraged SIAP to expand its training activities to enable it to respond to the increased demand for statistics for policy analysis in various subject areas. In particular, mention was made of the demand for statistical support for poverty alleviation, sustainable development and human resources development programmes.

416. The Commission also noted the need for advanced statistical training, such as in sampling techniques, data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination. It also noted the need for more training in data processing and statistical analysis software. It was recommended that SIAP should introduce recent developments in information technology into its activities, and expand its production of training material, manuals and audio-visual tools.

417. The adoption in 1993 of the revised SNA had created an urgent need to orient and train statisticians in the new System, while the forthcoming round of population and housing censuses also meant that countries required training in census methodology and operations. The Commission noted the importance of providing training to analyse key economic indicators such as commodity prices and foreign trade statistics, as well as to monitor the social situation through the production of indicators on human development.

418. The Commission recommended that SIAP examine the possibility of training official statisticians in the Central Asian republics and the Russian Federation, the majority of whom could not benefit from courses conducted in English.

419. Given the increasing demand for training and the need to expand the SIAP programmes, the Commission urged those members already contributing to increase their support, and requested others that had benefited from SIAP programmes to provide contributions. It welcomed the increased contributions announced or being contemplated by some Governments. It was suggested that, among other schemes to sustain the operations of SIAP, a trust fund should be established. Members were also urged to support SIAP by sending resource persons to assist in its programmes.

420. The Commission expressed its profound gratitude to Japan, the host country of SIAP, for the continuous support it had been providing through financial and in-kind contributions, and the award of fellowships for training in Tokyo. It welcomed the expression of continued generous support by the Government of Japan for SIAP. It also expressed appreciation to UNDP for the valuable support it had been extending to SIAP since its inception, most recently in helping national statistical offices improve their capability to provide reliable and timely indicators on human development. It urged UNDP to continue to support SIAP and invited other multilateral donors, including UNFPA, to provide financial assistance.

421. The Commission noted that the Committee on Statistics had recommended the adoption of a resolution on the statute of SIAP, in pursuance of Commission resolution 50/5 of 13 April 1994, which had provided a more permanent institutional framework by making SIAP a subsidiary body of ESCAP. Members and associate members unanimously supported the draft resolution, and welcomed the signing of the host country agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan. The Commission expressed the hope that the adoption of the resolution would promote the stability of SIAP and enhance its capability through expanding the scope and content of its programmes. It noted that SIAP would continue to function exclusively through extrabudgetary resources. The Commission adopted resolution 51/1 on the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

422. The Commission noted that the statute of SIAP provided for the establishment of a Governing Board. It recommended that members elected to the Board ensure that their representatives had professional standing in statistics, to ensure meaningful contributions to directing SIAP activities. Australia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand were elected members of the first Governing Board of SIAP, along with Japan, the host Government.

423. The Commission noted that future elections of the Board should give due regard to equitable geographic representation. Such representation was important to enable the Board to function as a reliable and effective mechanism for cooperation.

Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its third session, and follow-up

424. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its third session (E/ESCAP/997). It recognized that the severe structural constraints of geographic isolation, small size and limited natural resources faced by Pacific island countries seriously constrained their development. Those countries had been making concerted efforts to pursue sound and stable domestic policies designed to improve growth performance and to undertake policy reforms in various areas, including policies for promoting protection of the environment and sustainable development as a follow-up to the Global Conference on

the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in April-May 1994. It noted that the fast-changing international economic environment would have an increasing impact on the development performance of Pacific island countries. In that context, particular mention was made of the implications of the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

425. The Commission observed that it was of crucial importance that Pacific island countries strive to increase their exports and attract increased flows of foreign investment. It recognized the need to facilitate the ongoing efforts in those countries towards more open economies, the development of appropriate regulatory frameworks and the addressing of social and environmental issues. The Commission stressed the need, and the opportunity, for Pacific island countries to develop their trade and investment relations with Asian countries.

426. The Commission recognized that foreign assistance would remain crucial to the development process in the Pacific. There was a great need for technical assistance, exchange of experience and provision of information, as well as institution-building and human resources development. Strong support was voiced for increasing the volume and relevance of the assistance provided through bilateral programmes, TCDC and tripartite arrangements, as well as through subregional, regional and international agencies. It was suggested that island countries could consider making more use of training facilities and other technical cooperation programmes in the Asian region and thereby take advantage of the knowledge and experience of Asian countries. Several offers of such assistance were made by Asian developing countries as well as by developed countries. The Commission recognized the need for improved coordination in the assistance provided, and for ensuring that such assistance responded to the priorities identified by the countries themselves.

427. The Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its third session. There was a consensus among all members of the Commission, developed countries, Asian developing countries as well as Pacific island countries themselves, for efforts to be made by both the ESCAP secretariat and the members of ESCAP to implement those recommendations. The Commission emphasized that ESCAP should act as a bridge between the Pacific and Asia to assist Pacific island countries in their efforts to expand trade and investment links. It urged that the secretariat, in implementing the recommendations of the Special Body, keep in mind the need for greater coordination with subregional organizations to enhance complementarity in assistance programmes. There was a clearly expressed request to the ESCAP secretariat for increased assistance to Pacific island countries in understanding the implications and impact of the Uruguay Round agreements and WTO. There was also a call for ESCAP to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted at the Conference in 1994 especially as a link between the island countries and their subregional organizations and the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York.

428. Turning to ESCAP activities in the Pacific, the Commission was encouraged by several positive developments, especially the strengthening of the advisory staff of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (ESCAP/POC). Great appreciation was expressed of the valuable assistance and advice being provided by the Centre, and many Pacific island countries reported their intention to continue to request the services of its advisers in the future. In that regard, the Commission took note with satisfaction of efforts to increase the number of the advisers to 10. It conveyed its appreciation to the several donors that had supported the efforts of the ESCAP secretariat to provide assistance to the Pacific through the provision of financial and human resources, and requested the Executive Secretary to enhance the allocation of regular budget resources devoted to that purpose. At the same time, allocations for other ongoing projects should not be affected. It also urged the Executive Secretary to make every effort to raise the number of Pacific island nationals on the Professional staff of the secretariat in Bangkok.

429. The Commission reaffirmed the usefulness of the Pacific Trust Fund in assisting the Pacific island countries in participating in the sessions of the Commission. China announced a donation of US$ 10,000 to the Fund in 1995, and Indonesia, a contribution of US$ 5,000. In addition, the Government of Australia announced its financial support for one post at the Centre and for a project on enhancing trade and investment between Pacific island countries and East and South-East Asia. France and the Republic of Korea announced that they would continue to provide an expert each for the Centre.

430. The Commission endorsed the programme of work under subprogramme 6, in favour of Pacific island countries, for the biennium 1996-1997.

Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries on its second session, and follow-up

431. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries on its second session (E/ESCAP/998). As mandated by resolution 49/8 of 29 April 1993 on strengthening assistance to least developed countries, the Special Body devoted attention mainly to the mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

432. The Commission welcomed the opportunity provided by the mid-term review to assess the progress made in the least developed countries in achieving the objectives of the Programme of Action, to draw lessons from their development experience, and to recommend new measures to ensure its timely and effective implementation.

433. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Special Body for providing useful insights into the special problems faced by the least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action, the efforts those countries were making to address those problems and measures for strengthening such efforts, as well as the need for enhanced international support. It agreed with the main findings and recommendations of the Special Body on those questions, and endorsed the report. It requested the secretariat to take the recommendations of the Special Body fully into account in preparing the regional input for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, to be held in September-October 1995.

434. The Commission expressed concern over the slow progress made thus far in implementing the Programme of Action. It noted that while the least developed countries were doing their best to achieve its goals and objectives, the international community had lagged behind in implementing its commitments.

435. The Commission noted that the problems of low economic growth, stagnating resource flows, meagre amounts of FDI, deteriorating terms of trade, decrease in export earnings, increasing debt and periodic natural disasters hampered the development efforts of least developed countries and constrained their ability to achieve the objectives of the Programme of Action.

436. In setting priorities in implementing the Programme of Action for the remaining years of the decade, there was consensus on the need to focus attention on the question of poverty alleviation. Poverty continued to pose a serious challenge to many least developed countries, where the absolute number of the poor had been rising steadily over the years and large masses of the rural and urban populations were below the poverty line.

437. The Commission also emphasized that human resources development was another area which should be accorded high priority. The importance of education, training and imparting of technical knowledge and know-how, particularly to the rural population, was highlighted.

438. The rapid deterioration of the environment in some least developed and land-locked countries was a major concern requiring urgent attention. The desperate effort to maintain or raise levels of consumption through the excessive exploitation of natural resources was the underlying factor that had jeopardized the long-term sustainable development of those countries. However, few developing countries had the capacity to formulate, plan, implement and manage environmental programmes and incorporate them in their national development plans. The Commission therefore stressed the importance of capacity-building for effective environmental planning and management, which would require substantial support from the international community.

439. The Commission recognized that the least developed countries had the primary responsibility for the formulation and effective implementation of appropriate policies and priorities for their growth and development. It noted with interest the initiatives taken in those countries in maintaining macroeconomic stability, promoting privatization, instituting fiscal and financial sector reforms and improving public administration, and efforts at deregulation and liberalization in trade and major sectors of the economy. While welcoming those efforts, it noted that the effectiveness of those reforms would be greater if adequate external support were provided. It underscored the critical need for external assistance for the successful implementation of economic reforms in the least developed countries.

440. The Commission urged the donors to make greater efforts to achieve the goals on development assistance as recommended in the Programme of Action to increase substantially the volume of aid to the least developed countries. It also urged the international community to replenish the main sources of soft loan windows of multilateral institutions for the benefit of least developed countries, such as the eleventh replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association (IDA), and the Asian Development Fund. It was further recommended that the resources available to UNDP be enhanced and a greater share of total UNDP resources allocated to the least developed countries.

441. The Commission noted with appreciation the increasing interest and willingness of the developing countries in the region to extend assistance to the least developed countries under TCDC arrangements. Greater advantage could be taken of the available opportunities for such assistance, by matching needs with available assistance and strengthening institutional mechanisms, and by increased support from the international community.

442. The Commission recommended that the special problems of the land-locked and island least developed countries should be given greater emphasis and more focused attention.

443. It expressed appreciation to the development partners, both developed and developing, of the least developed countries, for the high priority they attached to the successful implementation of the Programme of

Action and for their expressions of support to those countries.

444. The Commission endorsed the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 under subprogramme 6, Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It adopted resolution 51/9 on the mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

Inter-organizational cooperation in the promotion of economic and social development in the region

445. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/999. In introducing the item, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that an important development since the fiftieth session had been the decision taken at the inter-agency meeting on strengthening coordination at the regional level, held in May 1994, to establish a Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RICAP). All existing programme-specific inter-agency committees and task forces would be subsidiary to RICAP, which would meet once a year to review the work of its subsidiary bodies and problems peculiar to the region, taking into account the recommendations made at the spring session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The Executive Secretary also referred to the enhanced cooperation between UNDP and ESCAP, as well as all other relevant organizations and agencies. In that connection, the UNDP/Regional Commission Task Force had been set up in July 1994 and had held its second meeting on 17 February 1995. The immediate focus of the Task Force recommendations had been to seek ways and means to increase opportunities for the regional commissions to participate in the UNDP-funded activities during the sixth programming cycle, and to assist in determining regional priorities. The Task Force had also underscored the necessity of the involvement and support of UNDP in the activities undertaken by RICAP and the task forces.

446. The Commission welcomed the secretariat initiatives in strengthening inter-organizational cooperation and coordination, including the establishment of RICAP, as well as the continuing efforts to strengthen collaboration among and between subregional organizations, in order to facilitate more effective support to the developing members and associate members, thus enabling them to take advantage of the growing potential in intraregional trade and investment; and to cooperate in other areas of mutual interest, such as poverty alleviation. The Commission felt that such cooperation should lead to intensified programme coordination as well as the promotion of joint activities. In that connection, the need for cooperation between ESCAP and CIS was highlighted.

447. The Commission expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for having generously hosted the second Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP, held in Jakarta in January 1995, which had provided greater impetus to that important initiative. It also noted with appreciation the offer made by ECO to host the third consultative meeting in 1996. The Commission welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ESCAP and the Forum Secretariat, as well as with the South Pacific Commission, as positive developments in forging stronger cooperation between ESCAP and subregional organizations.

448. The Commission endorsed the priority areas identified at the consultative meetings and noted with appreciation the follow-up activities that were already under way; it urged the secretariat to continue its coordinating role and to implement the recommendations and decisions emanating from those meetings. The Commission, while taking note of the various initiatives for promoting inter-organizational cooperation, emphasized that ESCAP should facilitate cooperation and promote linkages between the subregional organizations, for example, SAARC and ASEAN, since the subregional bodies had not achieved comparable levels of intensity in terms of subregional cooperation.

449. The Commission commended the secretariat on the document under the agenda item, which contained details of cooperation with various organizations at the regional level. It welcomed the new initiative of the secretariat in establishing the Inter-agency Task Force on Population and Development as a direct follow-up to the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development.

450. The Commission noted that the region was experiencing impressive economic growth which, in turn, called for greater cooperation among agencies and organizations dealing with economic and social development. Such cooperation, it was felt, should be strengthened in the future, while at the same time avoiding duplication and ensuring effective use of the limited resources available within the various agencies and institutions. It particularly welcomed the growing cooperation with financial institutions, such as the World Bank and ADB.

451. In view of the common membership of a number of CIS members in ESCAP and ECE, the Commission felt that increased cooperation between those regional commissions had become all the more important. In that connection, it took note of three specific proposals: the first related to the gas centre project, which aimed at promoting and developing a market-based gas industry in the economies in transition; the second project, already developed by ECE with support from the Department for Development Support and Management Services, United Nations Headquarters, dealt with capacity-building in

the Central Asian republics for monitoring and assessing water resources and water quality; and the third involved reproductive health and family planning in Central Asia, where the need was acute because reliance on traditional methods of birth control in those countries resulted in short birth intervals, unwanted pregnancies and a significant toll on maternal and child health.

452. The Commission expressed the view that the methodology of inter-organizational cooperation should be streamlined and that ESCAP should play the role of leader in fostering direct operational linkages between the various organizations engaged in similar types of work, within and outside the United Nations system. Cooperation with the various groupings, such as the Greater Mekong Basin and the Indo-China growth triangles, could generate new avenues of economic cooperation.

453. The representative of UNFPA stressed, in particular, the coordination role of ESCAP at the regional level, in the light of the broad-based programme on population, environment and sustainable development adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development.

454. The representative of UNDCP stressed the importance of the UNDCP continuing programme of cooperation with ESCAP for the purpose of reducing the demand and consumption of narcotics in the border areas of China and Myanmar. More recently, UNDCP had assisted Governments in implementing community-based approaches to drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention among disadvantaged groups, including training support and related regional network activities.

455. The representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services stressed the importance of the recent technical cooperation activities undertaken jointly with ESCAP in the field of energy and natural resources. The representative of UNCTAD informed the Commission of its long-standing cooperation with ESCAP on various issues, particularly maritime transport and shipping, while more recently, cooperation had been intensified in the field of trade, investment and privatization. It was expected that in the future collaboration would be further extended to poverty alleviation issues and problems of the region. The representative of UNICEF appreciated the special efforts of ESCAP in the organization of two ministerial conferences, one on the advancement of women held in June 1994, and the other on the preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held in October 1994. With regard to collaboration between WHO and ESCAP, it had been a useful and productive year, with inter-agency collaboration extended to preparatory activities for the World Summit for Social Development, preparation of the report on the state of the environment, as well as participation by WHO in six out of eight inter-agency committees and task forces established under the leadership of ESCAP. The importance of the role of ILO in the field of human resources development was also clearly recognized by the Commission. ILO had been specifically mentioned in 8 out of 20 proposals made in the theme study for the fifty-first session of the Commission.

456. Various United Nations agencies, including FAO, UNESCO, ICAO and IMO, were unanimous in their view that ESCAP should play an active role in the coordination of United Nations activities at the regional level, and that those activities should be well integrated with the work of the UNDP resident coordinator at the country level. The representative of the Colombo Plan Bureau stated that potential areas for collaboration with ESCAP included trade, small and medium enterprises, and ECDC-TCDC, in which the services of regional advisers and regular staff of the Bureau could be utilized.

457. The Commission noted that cities played an important role in the political, economic and social development of the countries of the region. With the recent trends towards globalization of trade and economies, the orientation of many economies towards export-led industrialization and the dawn of the new information age, the role of cities in economic and social development would increase considerably. However, there were critical disparities of wealth, and alienation of large sections of urban populations, which threatened sustainable economic and social development. The Commission noted that the countries of the region urgently needed to address issues of urban poverty, urban quality of life, participation of civic society in urban governance, and the capacity of local governments to manage urban areas more effectively. It noted the contributions made by CITYNET, and requested all concerned to build partnerships to address the issues posed by rapid urbanization.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

458. The Commission had before it the report of CCOP, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1000).

459. It was informed that during the past year extensive progress had been made in CCOP activities in the areas of institutional framework and project implementation. With regard to institutional development, the name of the Committee had been changed from "Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas" to "Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia", in order to reflect the expanded scope of its programme activities, in line with the changing needs of its member countries and the priorities in the financial

support provided by the cooperating countries. Concurrently, the mandate of CCOP had been amended to read: "The purpose of CCOP is to carry out joint applied geoscience programmes for sustainable development of the coastal and offshore areas in East and Southeast Asia". Concerning project implementation, the Commission noted that CCOP had continued to conduct programme activities in the three main sectors of energy, mineral and coastal zones. The energy sector saw a very successful conclusion of its oil and gas resource management programme at the end of 1994, with several significant outputs such as the Time-Slice Map Series and the Play Atlas. The mineral sector had concentrated its efforts on the application of computer technology to regional map compilation and the interpretation of geoscientific data. In the coastal zone sector, the major project was the Geoscience Database for Coastal Zone Management, which was in progress.

460. The Commission noted with appreciation the strong commitment of CCOP member countries and the support of its cooperating countries and relevant organizations. It requested CCOP, in close cooperation with ESCAP, to strengthen inter-agency coordination in formulating the work programme, with the objective of using available resources effectively.

461. The Commission expressed appreciation to Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and relevant organizations, for extending assistance to the programme areas concerning coastal and energy management, development of mineral resources, environmental conservation and natural disaster prevention. It took note of the forthcoming annual session of CCOP and the Steering Committee meeting, to be held in Japan at the end of September 1995.

462. The delegations from China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand congratulated the new Director of the CCOP Technical Secretariat on his appointment, effective 1 April 1995, and extended their fullest support to strengthening the CCOP programme.

463. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the former director of the CCOP technical secretariat, Mr Wang Daxiong, who had retired early in 1995 after successful completion of his tour of duty.

Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

464. The Commission had before it the report of the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (E/ESCAP/1001), which was presented for information by the Officer-in-Charge of the Mekong Secretariat.

465. The Commission was informed that four riparian countries of the Mekong River, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam, had established the Mekong River Commission on 5 April 1995 by signing an agreement which strongly signified their willingness to cooperate closely in all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River basin. The agreement also made a provision for the future inclusion of the two upper riparian countries to promote further subregional cooperation and development in general.

466. The Commission was informed that the future work of the Mekong River Commission, while maintaining the core functions related to basic data collection and analysis, monitoring of water quality and other environmental issues, would place emphasis on a basin-wide programme approach and activities.

467. The Commission was also informed that the Mekong Secretariat was authorized to continue to operate, until further notice, as the Secretariat of the new Commission, which would have to seek full cooperation from cooperating agencies, and in particular ESCAP, in performing its technical functions, as had been done by its predecessor, the Mekong Secretariat, during the past four decades.

468. The Commission was pleased to note that the Mekong Secretariat would continue to do its utmost to maintain its close relationship and expand areas of cooperation with ESCAP. In that connection, the Officer-in-Charge expressed the wish to continue to participate in the activities of the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, and the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

469. The Officer-in-Charge of the Mekong Secretariat expressed the gratitude of his organization to ESCAP, UNDP, the World Bank and ADB, and to the donor community and other cooperating agencies for the valuable support provided to the former Mekong Committee, and expressed the hope that assistance to the new Commission would continue and increase.

470. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific noted with appreciation the work undertaken in the past year, and congratulated the four countries on the establishment of the Mekong River Commission. It expressed gratitude to UNDP for fostering the negotiations during the past two years. It confirmed that the strong support it had provided to the Mekong Committee and its Secretariat in the past would continue to be provided to the new Commission and its Secretariat in their future work.

471. The Commission urged UNDP and other international agencies and donor countries to provide increasing support to the Mekong River Commission, financially and technically, to continue the good work on the development of the water and related resources of the Mekong River basin.

472. Some of the major donor countries specified their funding and technical support to the Mekong River Commission and to its Secretariat for the continuation of the work being undertaken on the integrated development of the Mekong River basin. UNDP confirmed the continuation of its support.

Typhoon Committee

473. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1002). It noted with appreciation the progress achieved by the Committee in preparedness for, and mitigation of, disasters caused by tropical cyclones, and the active support given by the secretariat and WMO to its activities.

474. The Commission noted that through natural disaster reduction activities, it was possible to reduce the cost of material damage and loss of life, thus contributing directly to the economic and social development of the members and associate members of the Commission. In that connection, the representative of China informed the Commission that a severe typhoon had affected some areas of China in August 1994 and, despite all preparedness efforts, including the early evacuation of 600,000 persons, 1,000 lives had been lost, and damage totalling Y 11.7 billion was recorded. It was estimated that, had early warning not been given, some 100,000 lives could have been lost.

475. The Commission noted the extensive efforts of the Typhoon Committee, including its coordination of the early warning and forecasting systems of its members and the provision of training; such work was being emulated by other intergovernmental bodies.

476. The continuous support to the Typhoon Committee, and the increasing role of the ESCAP secretariat pertaining to natural disaster mitigation, were highly appreciated.

477. The Commission urged UNDP and the secretariat to continue their support to the Typhoon Committee, and requested other donor agencies and countries to contribute to its activities. It also invited the Typhoon Committee members to make more extensive use of the TCDC programme for the exchange of expertise concerning the various aspects of natural disaster reduction.

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

478. The Commission had before it the report of APDC, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1003).

479. The Director of the Centre reported to the Commission that 1994 had been a significant year in that the ninth session of its General Council had approved the work programme for phase VI (1995-1998) and had resolved to augment the level of country contributions. He also stated that although the relationship between APDC and ESCAP was a long-standing one, the Memorandum of Understanding between the two had been signed on 1 August 1994.

480. The Director informed the Commission that during 1994 the Centre had undertaken 23 projects, funded by 14 donor agencies and countries. The Centre had received US$ 1,474,155, of which UNDP had contributed two thirds; other prominent donors included the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), the ASEAN-Canada Fund, and the Government of the Netherlands. The projects carried out were in the programme areas of energy, economic management, gender, poverty alleviation, public management and regional cooperation. The Centre had issued four publications in addition to its regular publications.

481. Reporting on the financial status of the Centre, the Director informed the Commission that the operating fund available for 1994 had amounted to US$ 2,836,173, a decrease of 4.6 per cent compared with 1993. However, the overall operating budget for 1994 showed a surplus of US$ 18,634, in contrast to a deficit of US$ 81,497 in 1993.

482. The Director noted with gratitude the pledges of increased annual contributions by Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines, and urged other member Governments to consider expanding their support to the Centre by raising the level of their pledges. In giving assurance that his country would increase its financial contributions to APDC, the representative of Nepal said he hoped other member countries would respond in a similar way.

483. Delegations from a number of countries, including the host country Malaysia, observed that APDC had carried out a great deal of useful work in the member countries in promoting regional cooperation in various areas, including meetings and training relating to poverty alleviation, gender and energy. Other member countries of ESCAP were urged to endorse and provide positive support to the Centre's activities.

Programme planning

Review of the implementation of the programme of work, 1994-1995, and proposed programme changes for 1995

484. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1004 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1005 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/1006.

485. It noted that the current biennium was the first in which the programme of work was being implemented within the framework of the restructured subprogrammes in line with the thematic programme

approach, as determined by the Commission in its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and as advocated in the revised medium-term plan, 1992-1997. The Commission appreciated the initiatives taken by the secretariat in reorganizing its own organizational structure and establishing six working groups on the respective subprogrammes so as to increase the level of interaction within the secretariat and enhance the intersectoral programme approach. It also appreciated the considerable effort made by the secretariat in promoting the joint planning and implementation of regional activities through the inter-agency and inter-organizational mechanisms, including the establishment of the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RICAP).

486. The Commission noted that the thematic approach had placed greater demands on the managerial and leadership functions, particularly in facilitating internal coordination within the secretariat. It also noted that in spite of the increase in the membership of the Commission by 20 per cent since 1992, the level of the regular budgetary resources made available to the secretariat for the implementation of its programmes of work had not increased correspondingly.

487. The Commission expressed general satisfaction with the implementation of the programme of work for the first half of the biennium, 1994-1995. However, the observation was made that the rates of implementation were relatively low in respect of subprogramme 4, Transport and communications, and subprogramme 6, Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, both of which were of great importance to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. The secretariat was urged to make the utmost effort in the implementation of those two subprogrammes to assist the groups of countries concerned. In that connection, the Executive Secretary explained that those groups of countries had benefited from programme activities under other subprogrammes. The impact, although not recorded under subprogramme 6, had been duly reflected in other subprogrammes with high rates of implementation.

488. In considering the proposed programme changes for 1995, the Commission noted that the expressed needs of the countries of the region were adequately reflected and that the capacity of the secretariat and the availability of regular and extrabudgetary resources were taken into consideration. The Commission approved the proposed changes to the programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995, as presented in document E/ESCAP/1005 and Corr.1. One delegation requested that programme element 3-4-218, Group training, seminars and workshops on rural industrialization and communication strategies for rural poverty alleviation and employment creation, which had been proposed for deletion owing to the non-availability of extrabudgetary resources, be retained.

489. In endorsing the tentative calendar of meetings, April 1995-March 1996, as contained in document E/ESCAP/1006, the Commission held the view that the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was scheduled to be held from 15 to 21 November 1995, might overlap with the dates of another international conference on biodiversity (second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity). Concerned Governments should, therefore, be consulted to determine the most convenient dates for holding the ESCAP Conference in order to ensure the fullest possible participation by the members and associate members of the Commission. The Republic of Korea confirmed that it would host the eighth meeting of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation in Seoul in the first quarter of 1996, and requested the secretariat to reflect that in the calendar of meetings.

Draft programme of work, 1996-1997

490. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1007 and E/ESCAP/1008.

491. It appreciated the efforts made by the secretariat in formulating the draft programme of work, 1996-1997, which took into account the resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in 1994 and the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994, and aimed at achieving the objectives set out in the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

492. The Commission fully supported the modest request of the secretariat for additional staff resources in order to strengthen its capabilities in the areas of social policy and agriculture and rural development within subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. It also endorsed the request for the conversion of one temporary Professional post provided in support of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific to a regular established post, to strengthen the follow-up of the Decade and the new mandates arising from the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

493. The Commission, however, expressed concern that the reduction of 7.7 per cent in non-staff costs of the regular budgetary resources for the biennium 1996-1997, would further necessitate the secretariat's dependence on extrabudgetary resources. Some delegations were also concerned that the allocation of regular budget resources to subprogramme 3 had been reduced. The Commission welcome the assurances of the Executive Secretary that the reduction was due to the reallocation of regular budgetary resources to subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation, and subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable

development, to improve intersectoral and subprogramme linkages within the thematic approach, and that the reallocation would not affect the ESCAP programme of work as a whole.

494. The observation was made that subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development, and subprogramme 6, Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, should be accorded more priority in the allocation of regular budget resources. In the light of continuing budgetary constraints, the Commission emphasized that prioritization of activities would be of crucial importance.

495. Considering the significance of environmental problems and issues, especially the deteriorating environmental conditions in the countries of the region, the recommendation was made that additional resources from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources be made available to strengthen the capability of the secretariat in that area. Similarly, with the globalization of international trade, it was felt that the capability of the secretariat should be strengthened to meet the increasing requirements for expanding regional and intraregional trade. The need to devote additional resources from the existing regular budget staff resources of the secretariat in the field of tourism was expressed in view of the high priority accorded to the development of tourism in the region. In that connection, the Executive Secretary was requested to take that proposal into consideration in future programme budgeting. Some delegations expressed the view that an increase in regular budget staff resources may be required.

496. Attention was drawn to the useful assistance and services provided by the secretariat, including human resources development programmes in the area of statistics and computerization organized jointly with SIAP. The Commission commended SIAP on the excellence of its training programmes, and the secretariat on the usefulness of its statistical publications, in particular those concerning foreign trade statistics and statistical indicators.

497. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed interest in participating in the work of ESCAP relating to subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia, trade and investment, infrastructure development, cooperation in environmental protection and use of natural resources, and application of space technology for development. It requested that appropriate measures be formulated in favour of the disadvantaged economies in transition, and expressed its willingness to assist the secretariat in those areas.

498. The delegation of India suggested the following priorities in the proposed programme of work, 1996-1997: in subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation, activities relating to analyses of the Uruguay Round agreements and their implications for the developing countries; promotion of trade efficiency and electronic commerce; development of small and medium enterprises and their linkages with large industries; development of agro and allied industries and capacity-building for diversification of trade; in subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable development, activities in such areas as energy efficiency, promotion of renewable sources of energy, regional cooperation in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, socio-economic implications of introducing ozone preservation substances and technologies, and population and environment; in subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development, activities in the areas of macroeconomic liberalization and its impact on poverty alleviation; enhancement of technological capacities of village and town industries for increased competitiveness; promotion of off-farm and non-farm employment generation; alleviation of poverty among women; and activities on human resources development. The Commission acknowledged the offer of the Government of India to provide fellowship support under its SHARES (Sharing of Experience in Space) programme for 10 months in-depth training in remote sensing and GIS in various applications in the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing in Dehra Dun.

499. The Commission endorsed the proposed programme of work and priorities, 1996-1997 as contained in E/ESCAP/1007.

Issues relevant to the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

500. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1009 and Corr. 1.

501. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the crucial role of the TCDC modality in alleviating the socio-economic development problems of the developing countries in the region, especially those of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and the disadvantaged economies in transition, on which emphasis had been placed. Towards that end, the reflection of the TCDC modality had been urged, to the fullest extent, in the project formulation process during the annual exercises, as well as through a corps of regional advisers to sensitize the member Governments on the benefits to be derived therefrom.

502. In that connection, the Executive Secretary pointed out a few impediments to TCDC, including the inadequate provision of extrabudgetary resources to meet the requirements, difficulties in providing host facilities and the associated resources, lack of information on TCDC needs and opportunities to enable matching and, finally, the weakness of TCDC national focal points, which had led to restricted implementation

of TCDC operational activities. The Executive Secretary urged both the host and the beneficiary countries to come forward with full cooperation to realize the potential of TCDC. He also appealed to the donor countries for additional contributions to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, to enable the secretariat to expand the TCDC operational activities in the region.

503. The Commission commended the secretariat on its catalytic role in promoting TCDC operational activities in the developing countries, with particular reference to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and the disadvantaged economies in transition. It expressed appreciation of the efforts of the secretariat, despite budgetary and other constraints, which had resulted in the increase of TCDC activities implemented in 1994 over the previous year.

504. The Commission was pleased to note the TCDC operational activities undertaken among the developing countries themselves, including training programmes, study visits and exchange visits, covering a variety of areas of interest to the countries concerned. It noted with appreciation the provision of the requisite technical assistance and associated local costs by the host countries. In that connection, as part of the TCDC programme of Indonesia in 1995-1996, 14 training programmes would be organized in the fields of agriculture, family planning, finance, health, mining, public works, and social welfare, in addition to 6 other training programmes under the self-propelling growth strategy. Indonesia was planning to host a joint meeting of experts and decision makers of the interested developing countries, developed countries and international organizations on development schemes, in Jakarta from 6 to 12 June 1995.

505. The Commission held the view that, in the light of the great potential of TCDC, the secretariat should intensify its efforts to tap the benefits through mobilization of additional resources to meet the requirements, strengthening of the TCDC national focal points, acquisition of more information on the capacities and needs of the developing countries, and greater participation of developing countries in the TCDC operational activities. In that connection, it appealed to the donor countries and international organizations to come forward with additional extrabudgetary resources to fulfil the purpose through tripartite and multipartite arrangements. The suggestion was made that the involvement of the private sector in the TCDC programmes would be beneficial.

506. The delegations from the Pacific island countries expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for organizing a TCDC study tour-cum-matching exercise for selected Pacific island countries in China in October 1994, and to the Government of China for providing the necessary resources therefor, which had exposed them to the training opportunities in China and the functioning of their Chinese counterpart for possible replication. The island countries requested that similar activities should be organized in the future. Another request was made by one delegation from the least developed countries for a similar programme for that group of countries, as one of the measures to intensify the TCDC modality in those countries.

507. One of the most effective means within the framework of TCDC was through bilateral exchanges to match the needs and capacities of the countries. In that connection, the Commission was pleased to note the long-term arrangements for a number of bilateral exchanges, including that between Uzbekistan and China in the field of water resources management.

508. The Commission was pleased to note that some developing members had been able to build up their capacities in a variety of areas of expertise which, within the framework of TCDC, could be tapped by other countries through sharing and exchange of experiences. It was, however, noted that in some instances promotional activities had not been followed by adequate operational activities as a result of inadequate backstopping support from the national focal points, lack of coordination and budgetary constraints. It was also noted that the numerous technical cooperation activities organized by the secretariat had not been able to promote sufficient follow-up operational activities, which was essentially due to the many subject areas covered by the activities. It was, therefore, recommended that such technical cooperation activities should be streamlined and prioritization exercised. In order to realize the potential of TCDC more effectively, the focus of the TCDC programmes should be related to development schemes, which would address the most common critical needs and problems and capitalize on local resources. The TCDC national focal points should also be strengthened, including the holding of regular meetings. One delegation suggested that streamlining of procedures and placing of the requisite resources at the disposal of the countries for undertaking TCDC activities should be considered.

509. The representative of UNDP informed the Commission of its revised TCDC strategy within the framework of a broad programme for ECDC leading towards an optimal contribution to sustainable human development, with emphasis on high-impact activities at both the regional and interregional levels, including strengthening of economic cooperation at the regional level within and outside the framework of integration arrangements. The TCDC activities funded by UNDP in 1994 had fallen into four categories: (i) sensitization and information on the TCDC modality; (ii) capacities and needs-matching exercises and subject-specific workshops; (iii) studies and evaluation; and (iv) capacities enhancement for the application of TCDC. UNDP had planned its 1995 TCDC operational activities to cover such areas as urban management, and the problems of the small island developing countries.

510. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 1994 had amounted to US$ 22.4 million, an increase of US$ 6.38 million, or about 40 per cent, over the 1993 level of US$ 16.02 million. Of the increased amount, US$ 2.1 million had come from donor and participating developing countries and US$ 1.2 million from UNDP.

511. With regard to the sources of extrabudgetary resources in 1994, he informed the Commission that the United Nations family had provided US$ 10.75 million, or 47.99 per cent of the extrabudgetary cash resources, whereas bilateral donors and developing members and associate members together had contributed US$ 10.9 million, or 48.69 per cent, and other organizations US$ 744,000, or 3.32 per cent. Of the US$ 10.9 million contributed by bilateral donors, and developing members and associate members, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway had together contributed about US$ 8.9 million, or 81.65 per cent of total bilateral assistance; Japan was the largest bilateral donor to ESCAP, with a contribution of about US$ 5.1 million, followed by the Netherlands, which had contributed around US$ 1.96 million. Twenty-one developing members and associate members had together contributed US$ 2.0 million, or 18.35 per cent. Among them, the largest donor was the Republic of Korea, which had contributed US$ 678,832 in cash, or 34 per cent of the cash contributions from developing countries, followed by China, which had contributed US$ 518,874 in cash, or 26 per cent.

512. The generous contributions of bilateral donors, developing members and associate members had enabled the secretariat to initiate the implementation of 91 technical cooperation projects, with a financial outlay of US$ 6.9 million, under its programme of work. The remaining amount of US$ 4 million was allotted for institutional and programme support to ESCAP regional institutions, the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery, the Pacific Trust Fund and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre.

513. In addition to cash contributions, donors and developing members had provided 221 work-months of services by experts recruited on a non-reimbursable loan basis in various disciplines in 1994, as compared with 230.25 work-months of such services received by ESCAP during 1993. The invaluable services of experts on non-reimbursable loan had augmented the regular staff of the secretariat and greatly enhanced its capability to render technical assistance to, as well as implement technical cooperation activities for the benefit of, the developing members and associate members. He expressed the hope that donors and developing members alike would continue to provide the services of such experts to ESCAP.

514. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the ability of ESCAP to undertake operational activities for its developing members and associate members depended on the extrabudgetary resources contributed by Governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations and NGOs. The adverse changing trends in resource flows for development aid globally, including the stagnant ODA of donor countries, increasing pressure and competing demands for scarce development assistance resources, as well as the small extrabudgetary resource base of ESCAP, had necessitated the strengthening of secretariat efforts to mobilize resources. He emphasized that while resource flows were maintained at previous levels, the technical cooperation needs of members were increasing as a result of expanded memberships and new mandated activities. With the adoption of a thematic programme of work, there was a consequential increase in the size of individual projects as well as their respective duration. To achieve the goals of ESCAP programmes, new approaches would have to be taken with regard to the funding provisions currently adopted by the donors, such as support for multi-year projects, increasing the budget ceiling of each project, early disbursement of approved funds for the implementation of technical cooperation activities, and the selection process of project proposals for funding by the donors.

515. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the financial shortfalls in institutional support funds provided by participating countries for the three regional institutions operating under the auspices of ESCAP, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and the special regional project on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery. The inability to ensure their institutional viability had seriously affected efforts to obtain adequate resources for the implementation of their programmes of work. He also drew the attention of the Commission to the issue of timely payment of intended contributions towards the institutional costs for the regional institutions and RNAM, which had remained largely unresolved.

516. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the proposals of the secretariat contained in paragraphs 35-39 and 41 of document E/ESCAP/1009, which he summarized as follows:

(a) Increase in annual contributions by donors, participating countries, multilateral funding agencies, and regional financial institutions;

(b) Establishment of new developing country-ESCAP cooperation funds by more advanced developing members and associate members;

(c) Pooling of donors' extrabudgetary contributions under specific themes and increase in the annual budget ceiling per project, with a view to facilitating the thematic approach;

(d) More expeditious transfer and disbursement of contributions to the secretariat;

(e) Greater flexibility in the project approval process, such as by allowing the secretariat to determine the package of projects to be financed from donors' annual contributions;

(f) Increase in contributions towards the institutional and programme support of regional institutions and RNAM by the participating Governments and donor countries, with the least developed countries contributing a minimum of US$ 1,000 and other developing countries a minimum of US$ 15,000 towards institutional support, and payment of such contributions at the beginning of every calendar year for each of the regional institutions and RNAM.

517. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries, developing members and associate members, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions. He expressed confidence that all Governments would continue to give ESCAP their unflagging support, particularly in the light of the reorientation of its programme of work to a thematic approach, and the increasing need for technical assistance and technical cooperation by developing members and associate members resulting from the expanded membership of the Commission. He therefore hoped that the results of the pledging exercise would not only reaffirm the commitment of members and associate members to the ideals and purposes for which the Commission had been established but also enable ESCAP to carry out its mandate effectively.

518. The Commission took note of the following contributions pledged for 1995.

519. *Australia*. The representative of Australia announced that his Government would contribute A$ 400,000 towards the ESCAP extrabudgetary programme in 1995. Those funds would be used to support activities within priority areas of ESCAP, as agreed upon between Australia and ESCAP. The activities included those in the areas of development of national policies on ageing, social development, the Asia Energy'95 Conference, short-term Australian consultants for the Pacific island developing countries to be stationed at ESCAP/POC (US$ 100,000), the Pacific Trust Fund, promoting trade and investment between the Pacific island countries and South-East Asia (US$ 154,000). He expressed satisfaction with the mechanism of biannual programme planning consultations with the secretariat, which had contributed to improvement in the targeting and impact of activities supported by his Government. The mechanism had also contributed to improved coordination among the divisions of the secretariat in promoting extrabudgetary project proposals. He reiterated his Government's continued support for the mechanism, and hoped that it would contribute to further improvement in the implementation of the extrabudgetary programme. The agreed areas of priority for support between Australia and ESCAP were the environment, health and drug abuse, poverty alleviation, and transport and communications. In addition to the annual contribution of A$ 400,000, the Australian Government maintained liaison with ESCAP/POC to provide an additional resource person to follow up on the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the cost of which was estimated at US$ 100,000. He emphasized that the continued funding for ESCAP demonstrated his Government's commitment to the organization and satisfaction with the reform undertaken by the secretariat during the past two years.

520. *Bangladesh*. The representative of Bangladesh announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	7 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	1 000
(c) SIAP	5 000
(d) RNAM	6 000

In addition, Bangladesh would contribute US$ 15,000 to APDC.

521. *Brunei Darussalam*. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) SIAP	5 000
(b) Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

In addition, a contribution of US$ 10,000 would be made to APDC.

522. *China*. The representative of China expressed his Government's satisfaction with the secretariat's achievements during 1994, despite the financial and human resource constraints faced by the secretariat. He reiterated the importance his Government attached to the cooperation programme with ESCAP. He announced that his Government would contribute a total of US$ 308,000 and Y 1 million in 1995, as follows:

(a) ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects	Y 750 000

(b)	ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects (including US$ 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, US$ 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund, and US$ 20,000 for the the field of cooperation in space applications)	US$ 150 000
(c)	APCTT	US$ 15 000
(d)	SIAP	US$ 21 000
(e)	RNAM	US$ 10 000

In addition, China would contribute US$ 50,000 to CCOP, US$ 50,000 to APDC, and US$ 12,000 and Y 250,000 to the Typhoon Committee.

523. *Democratic People's Republic of Korea*. The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced that his Government would contribute funds for the programme of work of ESCAP in 1995 in local currency at the same level as in 1994, which was W 20,000.

524. *France*. The representative of France expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by the secretariat in improving and intensifying TCDC, particularly among the Pacific island developing countries. The Government of France would continue to provide technical assistance in key areas of development in which ESCAP had the comparative advantage over other organizations. Those included the provision of an expert to work in the area of multimodal transport. France would also make available the services of an expert to undertake an impact study on the river navigation in the upper Mekong, and a study on the extension of the East-West transport corridor in Cambodia. The Government would continue to provide an expert to work on the Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and the Environment (PACE-E) to undertake a demand analysis study on gas and electricity; three experts to the CGPRT Centre in Bogor, Indonesia; one expert in pesticides for the Rural and Urban Development Division; and an expert to the International Trade and Economic Cooperation Division. France would enhance its cooperation with ESCAP/POC in Port Vila through the secondment of an expert on economic planning. In the area of space applications, France would assign an expert to the Environment and Natural Resources Management Division; and, with regard to regional cooperation, would also make available funds for the travel of experts in the region. The amount of extrabudgetary assistance earmarked for ESCAP in 1995 would be at about the same level as in 1994 (estimated by the secretariat to be about 10 million francs).

525. *India*. The representative of India announced the following intended contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	100 000 (in national currency) (1995-1996)
(b)	CGPRT Centre	5 000 (1994-1995)
(c)	SIAP	10 000 (1995)
(d)	RNAM	15 000 (1994-1995)

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 55,000 to APDC (1995).

526. *Indonesia*. The representative of Indonesia announced the following contributions:

(a)	APCTT	US$ 15 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	Rp 263.38 million (equivalent to approximately US$ 119,000)
(c)	SIAP	US$ 40 000
(d)	RNAM	US$ 15 000
(e)	Pacific Trust Fund	US$ 5 000

In addition, Indonesia would contribute US$ 47,300 to APDC and US$ 50,000 to CCOP.

527. *Islamic Republic of Iran*. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to the ESCAP programme of work in 1995.

528. *Japan*. The representative of Japan announced that her Government would contribute US$ 5.5 million in cash and US$ 2,612,500 in kind to ESCAP. The in-kind contribution amount was intended for SIAP. The amounts did not include the value of expert services to be made available to ESCAP on a non-reimbursable loan basis as well as the cash contribution of US$ 330,000 to APDC.

529. *Lao People's Democratic Republic*. The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic announced that his Government would contribute US$ 5,000 for the programme of work of ESCAP in 1995.

530. *Malaysia*. The representative of Malaysia announced the following intended contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	10 000
(b)	SIAP	10 000
(c)	Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

In addition, Malaysia would contribute US$ 46,200 (as annual contribution) and 440,000 Malaysian ringgits (as annual grant) to APDC.

531. *Micronesia (Federated States of).* The representative announced that his Government would contribute US$ 5,000 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

532. *Myanmar.* The representative of Myanmar announced that his Government would contribute US$ 2,000 for the programme of work of ESCAP and US$ 1,000 to SIAP. His Government would communicate with the secretariat later regarding its intended contribution to the CGPRT Centre.

533. *Nepal.* The representative of Nepal announced the following intended contributions:

	US$
(a) ESCAP programme of work	2 492
(b) APCTT	1 000
(c) CGPRT Centre	500
(d) SIAP	1 000

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 5,000 to APDC.

534. *The Netherlands.* The representative of the Netherlands announced that his Government would contribute US$ 2.0 million to ESCAP in 1995 for projects to assist developing members and associate members of ESCAP in dealing with priority issues in the area of economic and social development. Although no specific areas had been earmarked for funding as the Government of the Netherlands had delegated the authority to ESCAP to select projects for funding, those projects should take into consideration the impact of their implementation on poverty alleviation and on women and development, as well as their effect on environmental deterioration. He expressed satisfaction with the regular consultation mechanism his Government had established with the secretariat on the progress of implementation of the cooperation programme. He informed the Commission that under the financial rules of his Government, the annual contributions would have to be disbursed to the secretariat in four quarterly instalments. He also informed the Commission that the Government had been supporting multi-year projects of ESCAP.

535. *New Zealand.* The representative of New Zealand announced that his Government would contribute US$ 6,500 to the Pacific Trust Fund.

536. *Papua New Guinea.* The representative of Papua New Guinea announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) CGPRT Centre	5 000
(b) SIAP	2 000
(c) Pacific Trust Fund	5 000

537. *The Philippines.* The representative of the Philippines stated that her Government could endeavour to maintain its current level of contributions, as follows:

	US$
(a) APCTT	4 500
(b) CGPRT Centre	5 600
(c) SIAP	11 300
(d) RNAM	6 500

In addition, the Government pledged to contribute US$ 28,000 to CCOP and US$ 71,000 to APDC.

538. *Republic of Korea.* The representative of the Republic of Korea reaffirmed his Government's strong support to ESCAP activities and pledged the following contributions:

	US$
(a) Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	500 000
(b) APCTT	10 000
(c) CGPRT Centre	20 000
(d) SIAP	20 000
(e) RNAM	20 000

The amount did not include the value of expert services to be made available to ESCAP on a non-reimbursable loan basis. His Government's contribution to APDC and CCOP would be announced later at their respective general conferences.

539. *Russian Federation.* The representative of the Russian Federation expressed interest in participating in the work programme relating to subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia, trade and investment, infrastructure development, cooperation in environmental protection and use of natural resources, and application of space technology for development. He requested that appropriate measures be formulated in favour of the disadvantaged economies in transition, and expressed his country's willingness to assist the secretariat in those areas.

540. *Sri Lanka.* The representative of Sri Lanka announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	5 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	10 000
(c) SIAP	5 000

In addition, Sri Lanka would contribute US$ 27,500 to APDC.

541. *Thailand.* The representative of Thailand announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	15 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	30 000
(c) SIAP	13 000
(d) RNAM	15 000
(e) Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

In addition, Thailand would contribute US$ 40,000 to APDC, US$ 40,000 to CCOP and US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee in 1995.

542. *New Caledonia.* The representative of New Caledonia announced that his Government would contribute CFPF 500,000, equivalent to US$ 5,000, for the Pacific Trust Fund in 1995, in addition to the US$ 5,000 contributed in 1994.

543. *Germany.* The representative of Germany reaffirmed his Government's continuing cooperation with ESCAP in combating poverty, promoting education, preserving and making sensible use of scarce natural resources, and in human resources development, with special reference to the disadvantaged groups of women and young adults. It was also recalled that, since 1983, Germany had committed approximately DM 25.6 million to ESCAP priority projects in the fields of regional transport infrastructure, trade promotion, agricultural production and technology transfer.

544. The total pledges of contributions to ESCAP for 1995 made by 23 members and associate members amounted to approximately US$ 13.77 million, comprising US$ 9.11 million in cash and an estimated US$ 4.66 million in kind. The amounts did not include contributions announced for CCOP, APDC and the Typhoon Committee, or the value of four technical cooperation projects being funded by the Government of Germany through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in 1995. The actual funding level for those projects was being finalized with the authorities concerned.

545. The Commission noted that the total pledges mentioned above did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations for ESCAP-executed projects were not reflected in the total pledges.

546. The Commission endorsed the suggestions of the secretariat for fuller implementation of the ESCAP technical cooperation activities as well as the smooth operation of the Commission's regional institutions and RNAM.

547. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to members, associate members and donor countries for their intended contributions to the ESCAP programme of work, regional institutions and special regional projects, which indeed symbolized their commitment and support to ESCAP. He appealed to the more advanced developing countries to consider establishing a cooperation fund with ESCAP along the lines of the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and the China-ESCAP Cooperation Projects in promoting the spirit of the TCDC concept, which would greatly assist the secretariat in its formulation of extrabudgetary technical cooperation activities in the future.

Organization of future sessions of the Commission

548. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1010.

549. It recalled the sustained efforts it had made, over a period of several years, to reform and restructure the organization of its work in order to enhance its relevance and effectiveness as a region-wide forum as well as a development-oriented organization responding to the needs of the members and associate members. It noted that those efforts had had a dual purpose: to make more efficient use of the time and resources at the disposal of the Commission and the secretariat, and to strengthen opportunities for more effective ministerial-level interaction on policy issues of concern to the Commission.

550. The Commission commended ACPR on the significant role it had played in exploring various possibilities for improving the organization of future sessions of the Commission. It endorsed the recommendations of ACPR as contained in the annex to document E/ESCAP/1010, along with the note by the secretariat on the subject contained in the document, for implementation in accordance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Commission. It felt that the proposal to organize future sessions of the Commission on the basis of a two-tier approach, a senior officials segment, followed by a ministerial segment, would enhance the efficiency of the session. It was agreed that the number of concurrent meetings during the senior officials segment should not exceed three, to be allocated among the Committees of the Whole and the Working Group on Draft Resolutions. In that regard, the Commission decided that the integrated nature of the session and its report should be retained.

551. The Commission held the view that the recommendations contained in the annex to the document should be implemented on a trial basis with effect from the fifty-second session of the Commission. The review of the new organization of the Commission session should be undertaken as an integral part of the

review of the conference structure of the Commission at the fifty-third session, as stipulated in its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission.

552. The Commission endorsed the view that its discussions should be organized along thematic lines, and that in the consideration of issues, as well as of documents and reports, duplication of work between the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be avoided.

553. The Commission also endorsed the proposal that the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions be upgraded to the Working Group on Draft Resolutions. It noted that some of the recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/1010, pertaining to the revised format for the preparation of reports of subsidiary bodies, as well as documentation for the Commission session, were already being implemented. It was hoped that further improvements could be effected with regard to the reports to make them briefer, more concise and more uniform in format.

554. With regard to the Bureau of the Commission session, it was agreed that there would be only one Bureau, in accordance with the proposals outlined in the note by the secretariat.

555. The Commission reiterated the view that its sessions should, as far as possible, be held in Bangkok, although there would be a need to maintain flexibility in the event that a member country offered to host the session.

556. The Commission adopted resolution 51/3 on the organization of annual sessions of the Commission.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

557. The Commission considered and endorsed documents E/ESCAP/1011 and E/ESCAP/1011/Add.1, containing the report of the Advisory Committee, which was presented by the Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, the representative of Pakistan.

558. Since the fiftieth session of the Commission, ACPR had held 11 regular sessions and 3 informal working group meetings, at which it had adopted its work plan and considered the following:

(a) Commission sessions:

(i) Review of the fiftieth session;

(ii) Organization of future sessions of the Commission: possible options (see E/ESCAP/1010, annex);

(iii) Preparations for the fifty-first session;

(iv) Theme topic for the fifty-second session;

(b) Review of the following intergovernmental meeting:

Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, third session;

(c) Preparations for, and review of, the following intergovernmental meetings:

(i) Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific;

(ii) Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development;

(iii) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, fourth session;

(iv) Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, second session;

(v) Committee on Statistics, ninth session;

(vi) Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(vii) Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development;

(viii) Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Co-operation, fifth and sixth meetings;

(d) Preparations for the following intergovernmental meetings:

(i) Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, second session;

(ii) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, third session;

(e) Resolutions and major decisions of the Commission:

(i) Plan of implementation;

(ii) Progress in implementation;

(f) Programme of work and priorities:

(i) Implementation of the programme of work, 1994-1995;

(ii) Proposed programme changes for 1995;

(iii) Draft programme for 1996-1997;

(g) Tentative calendar of meetings, April 1995-March 1996.

559. The Commission appreciated the role played by the Advisory Committee in facilitating communication among member Governments, and between member Governments and the secretariat. ACPR was playing an increasingly constructive role, and had facilitated consensus on delicate issues. It proposed that the role of ACPR should be enhanced; among other activities, it could play a greater role in the preparation of draft resolutions. One delegation pointed out the need for ACPR to stay within its terms of reference and suggested that those should not be wilfully expanded. The Commission commended especially proposals of ACPR for the improvement of future sessions of the Commission, and asked it to continue its work in that regard. The Commission requested that ACPR consider and make recommendations for the improved effectiveness in the functioning of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation in relationship to its Steering Group.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-second session of the Commission

560. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1012. It decided that the fifty-second session would be held in Bangkok in March or April 1996. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the member Governments and the Chairperson, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly.

561. The Commission decided that the theme topic of the fifty-second session of the Commission would be "Sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Asia and the Pacific".

Adoption of the report of the Commission

562. The present report was adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at the twelfth meeting of its fifty-first session on 1 May 1995.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

51/1. Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 50/5 of 13 April 1994, in which it recommended that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific be accorded the legal status of a subsidiary body of the Commission as of 1 April 1995, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also that the Executive Secretary was requested to take the necessary action in that regard,

Noting with satisfaction the action taken by the Executive Secretary towards the implementation of that resolution,

Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of Japan, other participating Governments and the United Nations Development Programme for their generous financial assistance to the Institute since its inception in May 1970,

Noting that the draft statute of the Institute was reviewed by the Committee on Statistics at its ninth session, held in Bangkok from 28 November to 2 December 1994,

1. *Adopts* the Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to the Economic and Social Council for approval.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

Annex

STATUTE OF THE STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. ESTABLISHMENT, STATUS AND MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "the Institute") has the status of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") by virtue of Commission resolution 50/5 of 13 April 1994, and shall function under the terms of this Statute.

1.2 Participation in the training and other activities of the Institute is open to all members and associate members of the Commission.

2. OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

2.1 The Institute shall strengthen, through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of the developing members and associate members and disadvantaged economies in transition of the region to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and shall assist those developing members and associate members and disadvantaged economies in transition in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.

3. LOCATION OF THE INSTITUTE

3.1 The Institute shall be located in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan.

4. ORGANIZATION OF THE INSTITUTE

4.1 The Institute shall have a Governing Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") and a Director. The Institute shall have its own budget and staff.

4.2 The Financial and Staff Regulations of the United Nations shall apply to the Institute except as may otherwise be provided by the General Assembly. The Financial and Staff Rules and the administrative instructions of the United Nations shall apply to the Institute except as may otherwise be decided by the Secretary-General.

[1] See para. 421 above.

5. GOVERNING BOARD

5.1 The Board shall consist of a representative nominated by the host country of the Institute and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The Chairperson of the Committee on Statistics, or in her/his absence one of the Vice-Chairpersons, and the Executive Secretary or her/his representative(s) shall attend meetings of the Board in non-voting capacities. The Director of the Institute shall serve as Secretary of the Board.

5.2 Apart from the representative nominated by the host country of the Institute, the members of the Board shall be elected for a period of five years, but shall be eligible for re-election. The first election of members and associate members to the Board will be held at the Commission session in 1995.

5.3 Governments other than those specified in paragraph 5.1, as well as United Nations organs, international bodies and national organizations deemed appropriate by the Board, may be invited to attend its meetings as observers.

5.4 Sessions of the Board shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The inaugural session shall be convened as soon as possible after the adoption of the Statute.

5.5 The Board shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. The Board shall meet in special session whenever a majority of its members request the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to convene a special session.

5.6 A quorum for meetings of the Board shall be a majority of its members.

5.7 Each member of the Board shall have one vote. Decisions of the Board shall be made by consensus or, where this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

5.8 The Board shall at each regular session elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Board. The chairperson or, in her/his absence, the vice-chairperson, shall preside at meetings of the Board.

5.9 The Board shall review the operations of the Institute and shall consider and adopt the annual and long-term programmes of work of the Institute. The Board shall submit an annual report on the implementation of programmes to the Commission at each of its sessions. The Board's reports shall also be submitted to the ESCAP Committee on Statistics at each of its sessions.

5.10 The Board shall take into account the recommendations of the Committee on Statistics on the nature of and priorities in statistical training for the countries of the region.

6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF

6.1 The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, after consultation with the Board, for a term in principle not exceeding five years. The staff of the Institute shall also be appointed by the Secretary-General. All appointments shall be fixed-term appointments limited to service with the Institute.

6.2 The Director shall administer and manage the affairs of the Institute within the guidelines laid down by the Board and shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the implementation of the work of the Institute. The Director shall be responsible for the safe custody, installation and maintenance, insurance and replacement, as required, of all equipment provided to the Institute other than equipment provided by the host Government.

6.3 The Director shall prepare and submit to the Board an annual report on the administration and financial status of the Institute and the implementation of its programmes.

7. FINANCIAL AND RELATED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSTITUTE

7.1 The resources of the Institute shall consist of voluntary contributions in cash or in kind from:

(a) The Government of Japan;

(b) Other Governments;

(c) United Nations bodies and specialized agencies;

(d) Other sources.

7.2 A trust fund shall be established, under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, for the receipt and administration of financial resources.

7.3 The Commission, recognizing that the financial viability of the Institute is the responsibility of its members and associate members, shall at each session review the state of the resources of the Institute on the basis of the report of the Board and make such recommendations as it may deem appropriate, to ensure that timely and adequate resources are always available to the Institute and its programmes.

7.4 The Institute shall be administered on a sound economic and financial basis.

8. RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

8.1 The Institute may establish and maintain such relations as it may deem appropriate with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other international institutions.

51/2. Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988, in which it adopted the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/6 of 23 April 1992 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action, and 50/7 of 13 April 1994 on an update of the Jakarta Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind the decision at its fiftieth session that the theme topic of the fifty-first session would be "Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific",

Convinced that human resources development is fundamental to all efforts, in particular those of the region, to sustain economic growth, alleviate poverty and bridge the income distribution gap, and improve the quality of life of its people,

Noting that certain countries in the region have had considerable success in the development of their human resources and that there is much to gain from the sharing of experience, exchange of expertise and other forms of cooperation among the countries and subregions of Asia and the Pacific with respect to human resources development,

Welcoming the findings of the secretariat theme study on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth, prepared as a basis for the deliberations of the Commission at its fifty-first session,

Acknowledging the valuable advice rendered by the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development, convened by the secretariat in Bangkok in November 1994, in particular in reviewing a series of proposals for action on regional cooperation in human resources development,

Expressing its appreciation of the generous financial contribution of the Governments of Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea towards the secretariat's preparation of the theme study,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the thought-provoking proposals for action for regional cooperation in human resources development, as reviewed by the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development and presented in the theme study;

2. *Invites* all members and associate members to strengthen the scope and effectiveness of their human resources development policies, plans and programmes, and on that basis identify their potential for regional cooperation in support of human resources development through the sharing of that information, technical cooperation among developing countries and tripartite arrangements;

3. *Invites* the subregional and other intergovernmental organizations in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the United Nations Development Programme and other concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, to give priority consideration to the means of collaborating with ESCAP on activities in support of regional cooperation in human resources development;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To examine the feasibility of organizing a regional network of centres of excellence in development policy analysis to promote the sharing of views, exchange of experts and other forms of regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To seek the continued advice of the members of the Panel of Eminent Persons on further means of action to promote regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) To highlight human resources development as a strategy to alleviate poverty in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

(d) To devote particular attention to promoting women's human resources development as a means of ensuring gender equity;

(e) To monitor and assess the progress achieved in human resources development through regional cooperation, with particular reference to the implementation of the proposals for action contained in the theme study, and prepare a report on that matter for presentation to the Commission at its session in 1999 as part of the secretariat's overall review of the implementation of phase III of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

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[2] See para. 197 above.

51/3. Organization of annual sessions of the Commission[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, and 47/3 of 10 April 1991, on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, by which it established the thematic committees and special bodies subsidiary to the Commission and the frequency of their meetings,

Noting its continuing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of its work and to streamline the arrangements for that purpose,

Noting also the document on the organization of future sessions of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1010), together with its annex, containing recommendations of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission on the subject,

1. *Decides* to meet annually for up to seven working days, with the last three days meeting at the ministerial level, to discuss and decide upon important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, to endorse the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to examine and approve the programme of work and to take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference;

2. *Decides further* to upgrade the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions to enable it to function along with the three Committees of the Whole, so as to facilitate its deliberations on and consideration of the issues before it, with the proviso that no more than three meetings can take place simultaneously;

3. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, as contained in the document on the organization of future sessions of the Commission, together with the annex, taking into account the views of the secretariat expressed therein, for implementation in accordance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Commission;

4. *Decides* to review the new arrangement for holding its sessions, along with the review of the conference structure established by resolution 48/2, at the fifty-third session of the Commission;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include a review of the implementation of the present resolution in the report to be prepared by the secretariat on resolution 48/2, for consideration by the Commission at its fifty-third session.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

[3] See para. 556 above.

51/4. Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 on the convening of a world summit for social development,

Recalling also Commission resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992 on the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, and the decision, at its forty-ninth session, to convene in 1994 a regional ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development,

Convinced that economic growth, social progress and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing elements of sustained and equitable development, which must serve as a comprehensive framework for all efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for the people of Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming its commitment to accord priority to the alleviation of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration throughout the region,

Recognizing the need for an integrated, multisectoral approach, through comprehensive policies and programmes, and adequate resources, to address the multitude of interrelated social and economic issues confronting development policy makers and planners in the Asian and Pacific region,

Acknowledging the importance of identifying specific social development objectives, and setting attainable social development goals and targets, as a basis for effective action towards the eradication of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration throughout the region,

1. *Welcomes* the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held in Manila from 12 to 18 October 1994, and endorses the Agenda for Action on Social Development annexed to that Declaration;

2. *Welcomes also* the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, convened in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, noting in particular the decisions and recommendations contained therein pertaining specifically to the regional commissions;

[4] See para. 316 above.

3. *Welcomes further* the interest of the Government of Sri Lanka in hosting, in 1996, a meeting of senior officials on the implementation of the Agenda for Action, with special reference to the theme of poverty alleviation;

4. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and the Manila Declaration and the Agenda for Action, with specific reference to the goals and targets contained therein;

5. *Calls upon* all concerned donor countries and funding agencies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide new and innovative financial support for the implementation of the Agenda for Action;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To report to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, at its third session to be held in 1996, on the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the Agenda for Action, with specific reference to poverty alleviation, within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

(b) To provide continuing assistance to members and associate members in support of their implementation of the Agenda for Action, with specific reference to their reaching the goals and targets contained therein and in the light of the decisions taken by the World Summit for Social Development;

(c) To convene a regional ministerial conference on social development in 1997 to review and assess the progress achieved towards attaining the goals and targets of the Agenda for Action, to consider the means of enhancing regional cooperation in support of the Agenda for Action, and, thereafter, to convene further such meetings at a high political level on a biennial basis, as called for in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action;

(d) To promote an integrated, intersectoral approach, and ensure effective coordination of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental, private voluntary, and community-based organizations, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Agenda for Action;

(e) To report to the Commission, in 2000, on progress in the implementation of the Agenda for Action and, on the basis of consultations with members and associate members, to recommend further action and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets contained therein.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

51/5. Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT)[5]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the success of the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT) held in Bangkok in 1966, Tehran in 1969, New Delhi in 1972 and Beijing in 1985 and 1994, and the positive role they played in fostering economic cooperation, trade expansion and investment promotion among all members and associate members, and thereby in the development and restructuring of their economies,

Recognizing the importance of international trade fairs in strengthening regional economic cooperation through the promotion of intraregional trade and investment complementarities,

Recognizing also the increasing economic and trade interaction among members and associate members, while keeping in view their uneven trade and economic development and, therefore, the need to strengthen linkages between the more dynamic economies and other economies of the region,

Considering the importance of institutionalizing ASPAT, for at least the next ten years, to ensure the regular organization of the Fair for regional economic and trade development,

Expressing appreciation to the Governments of the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, India and Malaysia for their generous offers to host ASPAT in 1996, 1999, 2000 and 2002, respectively,

Noting that the Sixth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT'96), to be held in Manila, will provide an opportunity to accelerate the expansion of regional and international trade, and to promote investment, through the effective transfer of technology and the flow of capital, including in home furnishings and related products,

1. *Requests* the members and associate members, and particularly their industrial and commercial organizations, to participate actively in ASPAT'96 to ensure its success;

2. *Calls upon* the Governments of the members and associate members of the Commission, and other Members of the United Nations, to extend full support not only to ASPAT'96 but also to the subsequent fairs in the ASPAT series;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to extend all possible support to the organization of ASPAT'96 and other subsequent fairs, including support for the effective participation of least developed countries, Pacific island countries, land-locked countries and

[5] See para. 218 above.

disadvantaged economies in transition, subject to the availability of financial resources, and if necessary to approach multilateral and bilateral donors for financial support to enable the participation of those countries in ASPAT'96 and other subsequent fairs;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme, and other donors, to provide support to the secretariat in implementing the activities of its programme of work relating to the organization of ASPAT'96 and other subsequent fairs.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

51/6. Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Co-operation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century[6]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 50/1 of 13 April 1994, known as the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, in which the Commission acknowledged the growing interdependence among the Asian and Pacific economies and resolved to further intensify collective efforts for regional cooperation,

Recalling also resolution 48/1 of 23 April 1992, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, in which the Commission resolved to enhance, and impart new dimensions to, economic cooperation in the ESCAP region,

Recalling further resolution 49/1 of 29 April 1993 on implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment,

Recalling resolution 50/9 of 13 April 1994, on implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer,

Welcoming the establishment of the World Trade Organization, which is expected to contribute to the strengthening of a rule-based open multilateral trading system,

Bearing in mind its request made in the Delhi Declaration to the Executive Secretary to initiate appropriate action to review and recommend measures for further strengthening regional economic cooperation consistent with the emerging regional identity and for addressing more effectively the needs of the region towards the twenty-first century, and to report to the Commission, at its fifty-first session, on the implementation of the Declaration,

Taking into account the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ESCAP/980/Add.1), containing, *inter alia*, the major recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Follow-up to the Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, which examined the possibilities for future cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, technology transfer and industrial restructuring, tourism, physical infrastructure development, and development strategies and policies,

Recognizing that the progress of the economies of the Asian and Pacific region needs to be supported by mechanisms which will give them the necessary macroeconomic stability,

Acknowledging the important role that emerging information and communications technologies can play in facilitating the sharing of experience and information, and assisting in human resources development,

Reaffirming its commitment to accord special emphasis to the provision of assistance to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries of the region in their economic and social development efforts,

Recognizing the special technical assistance needs of the disadvantaged economies in transition in carrying out their structural adjustment programmes and in their integration into the mainstream of the regional economy,

1. *Welcomes* the major recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Follow-up to the Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century;

2. *Requests* the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group to consider the major recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting and propose further measures for strengthening regional cooperation in the areas identified, with a view to the preparation of a blueprint for a comprehensive strategy for regional economic cooperation to be considered by an ESCAP ministerial meeting;

3. *Recommends* that the feasibility be examined of establishing, on a self-financing basis, the following mechanisms, which, in collaboration and coordination with other existing institutions, can play a crucial role in enhancing trade, investment and economic cooperation, and technology transfer, as envisaged in the Delhi Declaration:

(a) A regional export credit guarantee facility;

(b) A regional investment information and promotion facility;

(c) A regional network of national chambers of commerce and industry;

[6] See para. 215 above.

(d) A regional network of tourism development organizations, including training institutes;

(e) A mechanism for establishing effective regional linkages between activities relating to, and institutions active in, education, training, research and policy formulation in the area of physical infrastructure facilities and services;

(f) A regional mechanism/network for standardization, quality control and metrology;

(g) A regional association for the commercialization of research and development;

4. *Considers* that the possibility of the evolution of a regional consensus and approach should be pursued to address critical issues such as the linking of environment, social clauses and other such considerations with trade, which could operate as non-tariff barriers to trade from developing countries of the ESCAP region and could erode the trade expansionary effects of the Uruguay Round;

5. *Agrees* that centres of excellence should be identified for networking from among human resources development institutions in the region along well-defined and acceptable criteria in areas of relevance to the region, such as intellectual property rights, foreign trade, technology transfer, tourism, rural banking, infrastructure, standards, and quality control, in recognition that sharing of views, exchange of experts and full fruition of human resources available within the region are essential for its overall economic and social development;

6. *Recommends* that the secretariat assume a leading role in assisting countries to take advantage of emerging information and communications technologies as a means of sharing experience and information, and in human resources development;

7. *Commends* the Executive Secretary on the initiatives taken in establishing linkages with subregional organizations such as the Association of South East Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Forum Secretariat, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the South Pacific Commission, and requests that measures and programmes be devised to further enhance cooperation between ESCAP and these and other regional and subregional bodies as well as among those bodies, particularly with a view to transmitting the experience of the more successful of those bodies to others that are yet to realize their full potential;

8. *Requests* donor Governments and multilateral agencies to provide support for the implementation of this important resolution;

9. *Invites* the subregional organizations and relevant regional institutions in Asia and the Pacific to extend cooperation to the Executive Secretary in the implementation of the provisions of the resolution;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

51/7. Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific[7]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 46/6 of 13 June 1990 on the integration of women in all aspects of development, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 1993 a regional intergovernmental meeting on women in development to review the progress achieved in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and as a regional preparatory activity for the conference on women to be convened by the United Nations in 1995,

Recalling also resolution 50/4 of 13 April 1994 on regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995: Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994,

Cognizant of General Assembly resolution 49/161 of 23 December 1994 on implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 44/77 of 8 December 1989, 46/98 of 16 December 1991, 47/95 of 16 December 1992 and 48/108 of 20 December 1993, as well as 48/109 of 20 December 1993 on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas,

Cognizant also of the increasing world recognition of the crucial role of women in achieving sustained economic growth and social development, including the eradication of poverty, as reflected in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992; the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993; the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994; and the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995,

Reaffirming that effective participation by women in all areas of social and economic development is essential to the attainment of national development goals and aspirations, and that much further progress needs to be made to upgrade the status of women and enhance their participation in development in the Asian and Pacific region,

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[7] See para. 306 above.

Reaffirming also the importance of mobilizing international, regional and national resources in accelerating efforts for the advancement of women,

Reaffirming the importance of improving the status of women in the family and society and enhancing their participation in development in all sectors and at all levels of activity at the national, regional and global levels,

Bearing in mind the importance of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing in September 1995,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, held in Jakarta in June 1994, of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, and endorses the Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific in that Declaration;

2. *Urges* all members to enhance their national capability, in particular the role of their national focal points or national machinery, to implement the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, and urges all associate members to do likewise, by the following:

(a) Adopting more comprehensive plans and strategies with measurable and time-bound objectives, particularly with regard to the improvement of the status and role of women in their economic and social development and the empowerment of women;

(b) Promoting community participation at all levels, local, district and national, and of all concerned groups, including non-governmental organizations;

(c) Mobilizing resources of all kinds, including human, financial and technical resources, from the local community, the private sector, local and national government, donor countries and international organizations and institutions, particularl the organizations of the United Nations system;

(d) Conducting regular data collection and analysis, and periodic publication of sex-disaggregated statistical information, and making it available to the public at the national, regional and international levels, and to the United Nations system in particular;

3. *Urges* all donor countries and agencies, and regional and international financial institutions to assist developing countries in accelerating the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, as head of the main centre within the United Nations system for the general economic and social development of the Asian and Pacific region, to provide support to national efforts, as required, for the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action, through both regular and extrabudgetary programmes of ESCAP, as well as to strengthen subregional and regional activities, and South-South and North-South cooperation, by the following:

(a) Facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience in the form of seminars, workshops and training in the development and implementation of comprehensive plans and strategies; the promotion of community participation; the collection and analysis of data from a gender perspective and their wide dissemination; and the design of research and studies for the advancement of women and the dissemination and use of the results;

(b) Mobilizing resources, financial and technical expertise and other forms of assistance for the implementation of national plans and strategies at both the national and regional levels, particularly for the least developed and land-locked countries of the region, and Pacific island developing countries;

(c) Conducting regional review and appraisal of the progress achieved and obstacles encountered with a view to enhancing efforts to face persistent and emerging challenges, and to take advantage of available and forthcoming opportunities for the advancement of women;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To play an advocacy and catalytic role for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action, including the preparation of the contribution, both governmental and non-governmental, of the region, to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing in September 1995;

(b) To support the integration of regional inputs, as contained in the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action, to the global platform for action at the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(c) To establish an inter-agency task force to promote intersectoral participation and ensure coordination of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action to the Commission at its fifty-second session, and biennially thereafter.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

51/8. Implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific[8]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, and 47/190 of 22 December 1992 on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also Commission resolution 236 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, and General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984, by which the Assembly proclaimed the Decade,

Recalling further Commission resolution 47/10 of 10 April 1991 on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, reaffirming the critical role of transport and communications in economic development and the importance of the improvement and growth of transport and communications infrastructure and services in a manner commensurate with the anticipated growth of all sectors of the economy generating the demand for transport and communications,

Recalling Commission resolutions 48/1 of 23 April 1992, on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, in which the Commission urged strongly that greater cooperation in the development of infrastructure should receive high priority, and 50/1 of 13 April 1994 on the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, in which, *inter alia*, the Commission declared that it would launch concerted efforts for the development of physical infrastructure, and accord due recognition to the transport and communication links required to facilitate regional trade and economic cooperation,

Recalling also Commission resolution 50/2 of 13 April 1994 on the action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission recognized the recent developments in the four main areas for regional cooperation in infrastructure development: the sharing of experience and human resources development; the consideration of issues surrounding the mobilization of financial resources; the development of regional policy and the regulatory environment; and joint development of mutually beneficial infrastructure projects,

Recognizing the critical need for the provision of adequate infrastructure for economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and bearing in mind the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition, in the development of their infrastructure,

Noting the suggestion of the Commission at its fiftieth session that in view of the increasing emphasis being placed by members and associate members on the importance of infrastructure development, consideration should be given to enlarging the scope of the Committee on Transport and Communications to encompass all areas of physical infrastructure,

Recognizing that international, regional and specialized lending agencies, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Development Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank, can play a catalytic role in attracting the financial resources of commercial banks, insurance companies and various other funds through the provision of equity finance to infrastructure projects in member countries,

Recognizing also the magnitude of investments required for infrastructure development, and the need for serious and concerted efforts to be made by all concerned — the Governments, the private sector, the donor countries, and the international agencies — towards that end,

Recognizing further that private sector participation should expand to all areas, including ownership, financing, management, operations, risk-sharing and development of infrastructure, in the context of national planning,

Noting the successful outcome of the World Infrastructure Forum - Asia, held in Jakarta in October 1994, and its decision to establish an Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance,

1. *Adopts* the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1997-2006, as annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* to convene in 1996 a ministerial conference on infrastructure to launch the New Delhi Action Plan as well as to review phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, and welcomes the offer of the Government of India to host the above ministerial meeting and the World Infrastructure Forum - Asia, 1996 concurrently;

3. *Invites* members and associate members to adopt policies to make the provision of infrastructure more sensitive to user demand;

4. *Requests* all members and associate members in the region to take immediate initiatives in identifying areas for action to promote their infrastructure development, and to apply the Action Plan

[8] See para. 375 above.

as a guideline in accordance with the differing economic and social conditions prevailing in the countries and areas of the region;

5. *Invites* members to establish national focal points for infrastructure development to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan at the national level and to participate actively with all agencies and subregional organizations involved in supporting regional action, and invites associate members to do likewise;

6. *Urges* members and associate members to strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors and to promote the active involvement of the private sector, in particular for infrastructure development, financing, management, operations and risk-sharing;

7. *Requests* the Committee on Transport and Communications, at its second session, to review its terms of reference, including its name, to cover aspects related to the development of physical infrastructure facilities and services, and tourism, for submission to the Commission at a future session when the review of the conference structure of the Commission will be undertaken;

8. *Invites* the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and all United Nations organizations and specialized agencies concerned with the planning and development of transport, communications, electric power and water in the region, as well as bilateral donor countries and the members and associate members of the Commission, to cooperate and coordinate their activities with the secretariat in the implementation of the Action Plan at both country and regional levels;

9. *Welcomes* the recent initiatives taken by the agencies for the preparation of project profiles in support of the Action Plan, and requests the Committee on Transport and Communications to review the profiles with a view to developing a regional action programme for implementation during the first half of the Action Plan period;

10. *Requests* international, regional and specialized lending agencies to make equity finance and loans available to sound infrastructure projects where such participation is likely to attract further financial resources from other sources;

11. *Requests* all concerned donor countries, donor agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and technical support for the ministerial conference on infrastructure;

12. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme and other funding agencies, as well as donor countries, to provide the requisite funds to support the implementation of the Action Plan in the region;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize resources for preparatory activities leading to the ministerial conference on infrastructure;

(b) To report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the progress in the preparations for the ministerial conference;

(c) To report to the Commission at its annual session until the last year of the Action Plan on its implementation;

(d) To encourage active involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the Action Plan and promote cooperation between the public and private sectors;

(e) To provide for the active participation of the secretariat in the activities of the proposed Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance;

(f) To ensure the availability of adequate human resources to enable the secretariat to monitor, coordinate and report effectively and efficiently on the implementation of the Action Plan;

(g) To review and refine periodically the regional action programme and the project profiles to ensure their continued relevance to changing conditions in the region;

(h) To ensure that the proposals for supporting action at the regional level embodied in the Action Plan are reflected in the medium-term plan.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

Annex

NEW DELHI ACTION PLAN ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Introduction

I. INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

II. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

III. PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

1. Infrastructure planning and policy
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4. Logistics and facilitation
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IV. MODALITIES

1. National modalities

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VI. STRATEGIES FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Introduction

1. The Commission at its forty-ninth session, held at Bangkok in April 1993, decided that the theme for its fiftieth session would be "Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation"[1] and directed the secretariat to undertake a study on that topic.

2. The Commission directed that the study should, *inter alia*, focus on an assessment of the magnitude of the deficiency in the physical infrastructure facilities in the developing countries, as well as in the disadvantaged economies in transition of the region, the resources required for addressing that deficiency and the measures needed to attract private investment, both domestic and foreign, for establishing infrastructure facilities. The successful experience of countries in the region in attracting private investment in infrastructure development, as well as the policies needed for efficient management of infrastructure facilities, were also to be utilized. In the promotion of increased investment for infrastructure building, the sustainability of development was to be taken into account. The study was also to focus on areas in which regional cooperation could facilitate the establishment of infrastructure facilities.

3. In response to this directive the secretariat undertook the theme study, *Infrastructure Development as Key to Economic Growth and Regional Economic Cooperation*,[2] which was further reported in the document, "Infrastructure development as key to economic growth and regional economic cooperation: summary".[3]

4. As a result of the deliberations of the Commission on the theme topic at its fiftieth session, the Commission adopted resolution 50/2 of 13 April 1994 on an action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific. Annexed to that resolution was a draft action plan which was to be reviewed and amended prior to being submitted to the Commission at its fifty-first session, for consideration and adoption as the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

I. INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

5. The provision of adequate infrastructure is one of the necessary conditions for sustainable economic and social development. However, in a number of countries of the ESCAP region, power brown-outs or black-outs, traffic congestion in major cities, limited road access to provincial markets and capitals, inadequate rail services, long waiting times at major ports, inadequate telecommunications services, including long waiting lists for telephones, many of the region's airports operating at their designed capacity and shortages of irrigation, drinking and industrial water all bear witness to the inadequacy of existing infrastructure facilities.

6. The study undertaken by the secretariat for the fiftieth session of the Commission found that by the year 2000, electrical generating capacity in the region as a whole needed to be doubled, main line telephone connections increased by 180 per cent, an extra 2 million kilometres of roads constructed (a large proportion of which would be rural roads), 41,000 kilometres of railway track laid and 140 container berths built.

7. The study estimated that the financial resource requirements for investment in infrastructure in the developing countries of the ESCAP region, between 1993 and the year 2000, were around $1,500 billion. Of this amount, $500 billion was identified as available and already committed to projects from domestic and international sources. Consequently, the financial "gap" amounts to around $1,000 billion. This, however, was most likely an understatement as, for example, detailed cost estimates for rehabilitation work were not included.

8. To place those estimates in perspective, the total amount required to fill the gap is approximately equal to the combined gross national product (GNP) of China, India and the Republic of Korea in 1991. It is also more than 40 times the GNP of Bangladesh. In relation to the international lending agencies, the combined lending in 1992 of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank was around $27 billion, of which around $7.5 billion was for transport, telecommunications, energy, urbanization, water supply and sanitation in countries of the ESCAP region. If similar amounts were lent each year to the year 2000 it would amount to less than 10 per cent of the identified additional financial resource requirement. Official development assistance (ODA) is also a significant source of finance for infrastructure development. However, it is unlikely that sufficient funds will be found from these external sources to close the gap.

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[1] Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on its forty-ninth session (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 16* (E/1993/36-E/ESCAP/927), para. 533.

[2] ST/ESCAP/1364.

[3] ST/ESCAP/930.

9. In most developing countries, Governments have, for some considerable time, played a dominant role in the finance, development, operation and maintenance of infrastructure facilities. However, in several countries resources from public sector savings are insufficient to finance infrastructure development. Additionally, competing demands for government financing have placed ceilings on the funds available, resulting in a reliance on borrowing from both internal and external sources. This in turn has increased the burden of interest and capital payments and increased inflationary pressures. In view of these problems some Governments have reduced capital expenditure on infrastructure, further exacerbating the shortfall in infrastructure capacity.

10. In the face of these constraints, solutions are being sought in two directions. First, through inviting greater participation by the private sector, both foreign and domestic, and second, through addressing core issues which are creating inefficiency in the infrastructure sector.

II. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

11. The theme topic study showed that there is considerable scope for further improvement in productivity and that complementary measures in the area of improving efficiency will reduce the demand for resources while creating an environment to attract the private sector finance, thereby sharing the investment burden.

12. The following policy issues related to infrastructure development were discussed within the study.

Information

13. One of the initial findings of the study was that the quality of information concerning existing infrastructure, its condition and availability, the efficiency with which it was used, the underlying demand and the cost of providing it varied across countries. As a result, there were many cases in which there was insufficient information to make important resource allocation decisions.

Administration

14. The means by which infrastructure subsectors were administered were widely regarded as a major impediment to the efficient provision and operation of services and facilities. Typical obstacles included regulation of prices, controls on maintenance and investment decisions, inability to retain profits, responsibility for the provision of various welfare services and facilities, lack of public sector funds for investment and inability to attract or retain qualified staff.

Pricing

15. The regulation of prices almost invariably meant that they were lower than the cost of providing the services and facilities of the infrastructure subsector's output. In addition, there was a considerable time-lag between the application for a price increase and the granting of the necessary permission. Such underpricing of infrastructure facilities had two main effects: first, resources were used inefficiently, and second, there were insufficient funds for the self-financing of the infrastructure subsectors — in fact, some infrastructure subsectors had been a major drain on public sector funds.

Public sector financing

16. The financing of infrastructure development had been primarily in the domain of the public sector. The magnitude of the financing task, coupled with various institutional and policy considerations, largely dictated that a substantial proportion of that finance would continue to be derived from the public sector. The principal sources of funds were domestic resources and self-financing.

17. Analysis of the fiscal regimes in countries of the region indicated that there was still appreciable room for increasing government revenue. At the same time, fiscal instruments could be better designed and innovations, such as value-added taxation, could be introduced more widely. The issue of importance to the infrastructure sector related again to the allocation of increased revenue to the sector.

Coordination

18. Within many infrastructure subsectors there was a lack of coordination between the various ministries and departments involved in the decision-making process. That slowed down the implementation of infrastructure development. The problem was compounded when coordination was required with other ministries and departments outside the subsector. For example, transport planning and land-use planning should be part of an integrated process; in many instances, that was not the case. Consequently, policies that addressed the questions of "internal" and "external" coordination needed to be considered and implemented.

Planning

19. As adequate funds to close the infrastructure gap were not available from traditional sources, attention must be focused on the planning agencies' role in setting priorities for national development. The current manifestations of the inadequate provision of infrastructure facilities in countries of the region strongly suggested that reviews of the planning process were also required in that area.

Management and operating efficiency

20. Some of the public sector losses could be reduced with more efficient management and operation of infrastructure facilities. While a number of initiatives had been taken in the direction of developing corporate planning approaches to management and implementing management information systems, on the whole, management procedures were outdated and in urgent need of major upgrading. Without such performance-oriented tools and procedures it was difficult for management to locate the areas within the organization in which major losses were occurring, the causes of low productivity levels and the appropriate remedial actions.

Maintenance

21. Maintenance was another area which had been seriously neglected in the infrastructure subsectors. There was an important trade-off between capital and maintenance expenditure; significant savings could be made in overall expenditure through adequate allocations to, and effective management of, maintenance activities.

22. One of the causes of low productivity and inattention to maintenance was that the planning system in most countries was oriented towards capital formation at the expense of production management. Consequently, attention needed to be directed towards placing greater emphasis on post-implementation operation and maintenance.

Multimodal transport

23. The provision of infrastructure for and development of efficient transport systems was essential for the development of a country's trade. For many countries of the region, especially the land-locked countries, that required a number of different modes of transport, transit through third countries and border-crossings. Countries of the region needed to consider integrated systems approaches to the transport of goods, multimodal transport, transit arrangements and facilitation of border-crossings.

Private sector participation

24. Private sector participation was a partial solution to some of the problems arising in the infrastructure sector, for example through the provision of funds outside the government budget, the implementation of changes to improve efficiency, and the transfer of technology and management. However, a prerequisite to such participation was a favourable investment climate: that was composed of many elements, including the legal framework for private sector involvement, trade facilitation measures, and macroeconomic stability — especially in relation to prices and exchange rates, and financing costs and arrangements. In inviting private sector participation, Governments would be required to address those elements.

25. From an administrative and legal point of view, the process of involving the private sector was complex. For example, the principle of a build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract was one of risk-sharing, and thus there were a large number of agreements to be made between the principal project company and the responsible government agency, contractors, insurers, operators, lenders, trustee banks and shareholders. The contracts had to be carefully drawn up and implemented in order to ensure that the proposed activities were feasible and in the public interest. Many countries of the region had limited experience in those aspects of private sector participation.

26. In a number of countries, private sector participation, especially in the form of BOT, was viewed as the answer to infrastructure development. However, long lists of projects with the comment "suitable for BOT" were not generating the desired response. In that respect, consideration needed to be given to the preparation of project proposals from the perspective of the private sector investor.

Regulation of private sector participation

27. The experience of privatization outside the region suggested that for the infrastructure sector, public monopolies had been replaced by market structures which in many cases needed to be monitored in order to ensure that the public interest was represented. As a result, the role of government had changed from active participant to facilitator and regulator. That had been the experience of privatization in, for example, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where public monopolies had been replaced by a private sector controlled by regulatory authorities.

Environment

28. The development and operation of infrastructure facilities could have a major impact on the environment. There was a spectrum of policies which could be adopted in an attempt to mitigate those effects, ranging from unconstrained freedom to exploit the environment to a total ban on the offending activity. In the face of the evidence, both ends of the spectrum were untenable. The policy issue for consideration was the means of reducing to acceptable levels the adverse environmental impact of infrastructure development.

Equity and efficiency

29. The practice of using the infrastructure subsectors as instruments of general socio-economic policy had confused the questions of efficiency and equity. A minimum requirement of any management information system established within an infrastructure subsector was that the cost of meeting such obligations be identified clearly.

30. If it was decided to introduce pricing reforms and to improve productivity, careful consideration needed to be given at the policy formulation stage to the impact on the members of society directly affected by such reforms.

Poverty alleviation

31. The structural changes associated with economic development placed considerable pressure on specific groups within the community and the impact tended to vary widely from region to region. In the long term, human resources development was a key to redressing many of those inequalities. In the short term, however, policies needed to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the changes and facilitate sustainable economic development. In that respect, the development of infrastructure had a role to play in, for example, increasing the contribution of women to sustainable economic development, reducing farm-to-market transport costs, providing the basic facilities required to reduce the regional concentration of industrial development, and providing easier access to education and employment opportunities.

Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition

32. The major issue in the infrastructure sector facing many least developed countries was the serving of the basic human needs of the local population, in particular for the transport of agricultural products. The need to minimize or prevent damage from natural hazards must also be taken into account in strengthening physical infrastructure. Land-locked countries, because of their geographical disadvantage, needed, in association with their transit neighbours, to address the issue of minimizing physical and procedural impediments to the development of the external trade of land-locked countries. For island developing countries, particularly the small islands, the capital and human resource requirements to develop and maintain infrastructure were large in relation to the resources available.

33. To date, expenditure on infrastructure in many least developed, land-locked and island developing countries had been underwritten almost wholly by substantial inflows of ODA. Given the recurrent requirement for such assistance, there was a real danger of donor lethargy. There was, therefore, urgent need for those countries to develop long-term strategies that demonstrated clearly the path the country was following towards sustainable development. In those countries, the major issues were the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the means of attracting foreign investment and ODA, for infrastructure rehabilitation, maintenance and development.

Human resources development

34. The key role of human resources development was clear from the above outline of the main issues associated with infrastructure development: improved administration, operating efficiency, maintenance or coping with the introduction of private sector participation. In that respect, clear policies needed to be developed to ensure that the full potential of human resources was realized.

III. PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

35. The approach taken has been to set down a series of policy initiatives and actions which together form a framework that will increase the level of efficiency of the infrastructure sector, raise the level of confidence in the development process and thereby create an environment to attract the private sector to invest. The plan attempts to set forth a balanced approach focused on reducing waste and increasing the capacity of the existing infrastructure, with the objective of restraining the capital demand for new infrastructure. While it is recognized that this will not be an easy path for Governments to follow, it is fundamental to increased efficiency and economic growth.

36. While the majority of the recommendations apply to all countries of the region, it is recognized that there will be exceptions. It will be the responsibility of each country to develop its own strategy for implementation of the national actions depending on perceived priorities and the availability of resources. In addition, however, there is an important, integral role for subregional and regional organizations in supporting initiatives and facilitating implementation. To assist Governments in implementing this approach, proposals for action have been suggested to put in place the fundamental requirements for partnership between government, management, labour, the private sector, donors and international organizations in the development of the infrastructure sector. Although not comprehensive, the proposals represent priority activities which together will significantly enhance the performance of the infrastructure sector.

37. To provide a logical framework for the actions proposed at the national level and the supporting actions at the regional level, they have been grouped under eight theme areas. The main headings are listed below:

1. Infrastructure planning and policy;
2. Administration and management;
3. Private sector participation;
4. Logistics and facilitation;
5. Environment and safety;
6. Human resources development capabilities;

7. Poverty alleviation, rural areas and disadvantaged population groups;

8. Infrastructure needs of the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition.

38. Each of the national and regional actions proposed within the plan will encompass a number of modalities. They have not been fully described under each proposal but instead elaborated in some detail in chapter IV. In addition, given the potential importance of private sector participation as an approach to improving the provision of infrastructural capacity and efficiency of operation that cuts across each of the areas covered below, it is dealt with as a separate entity.

1. Infrastructure planning and policy

39. The magnitude of the infrastructure development task, coupled with various institutional and policy considerations, dictates that a substantial proportion of infrastructure financing will continue to be derived from the public sector, at least in the medium term. However, available public sector resources are inadequate and the level of allocations made to the sector reveals no discernible pattern as regards optimum share or level. An examination of resource mobilization in countries of the region indicates that there is considerable room for increasing public sector revenue. Further, prudent deregulation and liberalization of policy in the infrastructure sector can result in gains through increased levels of competition.

40. It is evident that the products and services generated by the available and already overstretched infrastructure are being consumed inefficiently or even wasted. It is the role of Governments to implement creative approaches to enlighten the user community and encourage it to make decisions which will, directly or indirectly, have a beneficial impact on the consumption of available and future output. It is recognized that the pricing of traditional public sector services is undertaken in a complex political, social and economic environment which demands the application of specific adjustments to meet national demands. However, the original reasons for the application of adjustments are, in many cases, no longer valid. In many agencies, the absence of adequate cost information has resulted in the application of subsidies, or in monopoly situations, excessive profit-making. Governments are slowly taking issues of pricing out of the political arena; however, for the majority of public sector agencies, operating subsidies and cross-subsidization still prevail. Decisions in this area, taken from a position of awareness, can lead to improved consumption patterns; nevertheless, the resulting distortion in the market can and often does lead to inappropriate decision-making by the user community.

41. National planning agencies should be strengthened, more effective modalities institutionalized and tools provided which will establish clear and quantified guidance to assist in prioritizing projects and quantifying the cost of politicizing investment decisions. For the majority of disadvantaged countries there will remain a shortfall in funding for increased infrastructure capacity for at least the next few years. It is therefore vital that investments are made in the most deserving projects. While it is recognized that politics will always be a factor in the investment decision-making process, every effort must be made to demonstrate clearly benefit and cost flows through the project cycle in the hope that, presented with adequate information, decision makers will make the right choice and donors will be more confident that funds are being used judiciously.

1.1 Proposals for action at the country level

1.1.1 In some cases, the idea of having to pay a higher price for an infrastructure service that may already be overstretched and inefficient may not be acceptable to the consumer. In such cases, proposals for revision in their prices may have to be accompanied by distinct improvement in the quality and efficiency of the service. This would, in turn, require infusion of additional capital for improvement or modernization. In this regard, innovative options and approaches for marketing improvements in service quality and the introduction of a "user pays" principle need to be developed and adopted.

1.1.2 Longer-term strategic, perhaps rolling, investment plans which can provide a more effective framework for the prioritization of project implementation and investment planning should be developed.

1.1.3 As the basis for effective prioritization and timing of investments, comprehensive information and data, in a consistent form, should be made available on the costs and benefits of all competing projects. This will provide the basis for projects which can be identified as being funded preferably by the public and private sectors, depending on projected economic, social and financial returns.

1.1.4 Arrangements should be institutionalized which will create "transparency" in the investment decision-making process with the aim of minimizing irregularities and abnormalities. Mechanisms may include providing added strength to national planning agencies to assist them in minimizing political interference in the planning process and public debate of investment plans to minimize the potential for investment leakage.

1.1.5 Computer tools should be used to support the planning process. Such tools can assist in the financial and economic evaluation of benefits by providing a clear, comprehensive and logical progression from projection through costs to benefits and have the advantage of enabling project data to be conveniently updated as situations change. They will also facilitate the management and control of consultants by making assumptions more transparent and options more easily evaluated.

1.1.6 Labour should be involved as a full partner with government and management in the planning process. Given an equitable position, with appropriate safeguards and benefits, labour can play a vital role in promoting the development of infrastructure.

1.1.7 Governments should review the means by which domestic resources are mobilized and, where appropriate, implement measures aimed at increasing such mobilization. In the area of fiscal policy, instruments can be better designed, innovations introduced and measures taken to reduce tax evasion. In the financial markets, there is scope for introducing or expanding the role of financial institutions and introducing new financial instruments.

1.1.8 Governments should review carefully the level of funds allocated to the infrastructure sectors, including the mechanism by which the funds are allocated, to ensure that at least minimum investment resources are available to cover operation and maintenance costs.

1.1.9 Within each of the sectors using significant infrastructural facilities the costs, both fixed and variable, of providing services and outputs to the user community should be identified and quantified.

1.1.10 Governments should devise financial and economic guidelines for the infrastructure subsectors. Such guidelines would incorporate a general principle that prices reflect the costs of providing the subsector's services and facilities. Governments should review the application of subsidies and price-setting tools to encourage efficient usage of limited outputs and resources. These provide the clearest of signals to users, large and small, of the value of the output consumed and assist them in making decisions which will conform closely to the well-being of the country. Where, for social or other reasons, this is deemed not to be possible, the relevant costs and consumers should be clearly identified.

1.1.11 Public awareness campaigns and marketing can be important vehicles for the Government in creating an informed community which will be more prepared to adjust consumption patterns in line with resource availability. These can be employed beneficially at all times and not just at times of crisis, such as water conservation measures in periods of drought (when they can be seen to be effective), to reduce wasteful consumption and even increase reserves. As a final resort, Governments may employ legislation, regulation or rationing to reduce consumption; however, with such firm action, which may be difficult to reverse and which can create shadow markets, there will always be a danger that the development process will be stifled.

1.1.12 Labour, government and management should together identify the real employment requirements of existing and planned infrastructure. Action should be taken to provide the opportunity for labour and management staff to move to alternative, and sometimes non-traditional, employment through mechanisms such as skill training for alternative employment, two or more years' leave of absence with the security of guaranteed re-employment if necessary, or even the provision of grants for the establishment of small-scale enterprises.

1.1.13 As the infrastructure sector becomes more efficient, effective social welfare schemes should be set in place which will respond to the needs of the less fortunate, who may not have employment opportunities or access to state agency schooling and hospitals.

1.2 Proposals for supporting action at the regional level

1.2.1 Guidelines and technical assistance will be provided to assist countries in developing national strategies for the implementation of the country-level actions contained in this plan.

1.2.2 Studies, research, computer models on major intraregional and interregional flows (transport, communications, power supply) and their development will be undertaken to assist the countries in the identification of main traffic patterns at regional and subregional levels. Assistance in the development and strengthening of national capabilities will be provided through the identification and quantification of capacity requirements of potential physical linkages as well as minimum standards and requirements.

1.2.3 Regional studies on the economic and social impact of infrastructure deficiencies will be undertaken focusing on the special needs of

particular areas, including those of urban communities. They will include coverage of congestion, limited access, and shortages.

1.2.4 Assistance in the identification, planning and finance of regionally significant infrastructure projects which transcend national boundaries and where a perception of potential benefits and perspectives for the sharing of facilities, aligning routes and equitable cooperative arrangements between countries or subregions can be useful. Many examples exist in the railway (Trans-Asian Railway), road (Asian Highway), power (electricity grid connections and gas pipeline networks), communications, water and port sectors where such an approach could also strengthen the opportunities for growth triangles.

1.2.5 Guidelines, technical assistance and training of trainers for integrated infrastructure planning will be provided. Special attention will be given to the integration of traditional technologies into modern infrastructure systems. A review of the regional experience of land-use planning will also be undertaken to ensure that a relevant and practical background is provided to training and to create the opportunity for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC).

1.2.6 Guidelines and specifications will be developed for the creation of computerized databases at the national level on existing infrastructure, including the form, content and modalities for their updating. The introduction of operational databases in one or more developing countries will be undertaken as demonstration projects, and as the focus for regional and subregional training activities. A regional database with priority attention to the infrastructure of international importance will be created as an information resource.

1.2.7 Investment appraisal and planning tools will be developed for national usage. They will embody clear and quantified guidance, including socio-economic costs/benefits and project income generation potential, to assist in prioritizing and exposing the cost of taking an unfavourable investment decision. Training programmes at national, subregional and regional levels on computer-based financial/economic planning models will be delivered.

1.2.8 Regional research and studies leading to the development of guidelines for the preparation of long-term infrastructure modernization programmes will be undertaken to review the application of appropriate technologies and as the basis for training and sharing of knowledge.

1.2.9 At the regional level an analysis of the potential approaches that can be employed in raising domestic and foreign capital will provide national policy makers with a clearer picture of the benefits of the various alternatives and assist in establishing negotiating positions. Particular attention will be given to accessing domestic and regional finances.

1.2.10 Regional initiatives can assist in providing solid examples of the structure, formulae and approaches which could be applied in arriving at appropriate prices. Comparative studies of regional experience and analysis of the benefits/implications at the economic, financial and social levels can lead to the development of guidelines which would provide a focus for national debate and policy formulation leading to improved consumption patterns. The guidelines would also form the basis for technical assistance and training on the application of appropriate methodologies which would encompass the quantification of economic benefits, internal and external costs, capacity and potential social impacts of price changes.

1.2.11 Research into the implications of deregulation, liberalization and other policy alternatives will be undertaken to assist countries in the formulation of appropriate national policy.

2. Administration and management

42. The creation of an effective decision-making framework for infrastructure development and operation can increase output efficiency in the infrastructure sector significantly. The legislation and administration of any country are slow to change. This is particularly true of the developing, and particularly the least developed countries of the region; yet the rapid pace of change in technology, economic climate and especially usage patterns requires a responsive environment. In addition, infrastructure *per se* transcends traditional ministerial boundaries. Bureaucracy, lack of delegation, unclear objectives and conflicting policies all have an adverse impact on the efficiency with which the infrastructure sector can perform. In reforming national legislation and administration, clear economic and financial objectives should be articulated to provide unambiguous counsel on the changing role and expected performance of agencies. Such reforms should be designed to allow the infrastructure subsectors to be managed as businesses, not as bureaucracies. While there are some areas in which central Government is required to retain a conspicuous controlling role, for example, coordination, policy planning, strategic considerations, environmental regulation and social well-being, there is an overwhelmingly strong case for the delegation of

authority, decision-making and responsibility to lower levels which are involved more intimately in the operation of infrastructure assets.

43. A wide range of examples exist of infrastructure projects which are now in operation at "maximum output" yet which fail to achieve a production capacity that is even close to the expectations in the original design. The reasons for this include outdated management systems, inefficient operational practices and inadequate maintenance. Within the infrastructure sector, Governments and lending agencies tend to give priority to capital development. Thus, the already inadequate budgets for investment in existing facilities are spread ever more thinly over an increasingly wider asset base.

2.1 Proposals for action at the country level

2.1.1 Legislation should be updated to foster economic, social and technological progress. Within the process current and projected national developments, as well as relevant international conventions, should be taken into account.

2.1.2 Central government administrative controls and procedures should be reviewed and streamlined. Attention should be given to the interaction among different ministries, and increased coordination of infrastructure falling under the responsibility of different ministries which may complement each other or compete for users, but which certainly compete for resources. Improved land-use planning will be an important component of this activity. Particularly important will be the identification of duplication of responsibilities. The delegation of authority to competent agencies and organizations should be encouraged within a coordinated plan of action.

2.1.3 Governments should guide and assist the various agencies and organizations involved in infrastructure to evaluate their internal administrative practices and procedures with a view to identifying areas in which more commercial management practices could be associated with appropriate levels of autonomy.

2.1.4 Consideration should be given to the metamorphosis of government agencies, or elements thereof, through a process of corporatization (by the transfer of assets and authority to a pseudo-private organization under public control) with internal responsibilities that mirror the private sector in terms of clearly defined financial and operational objectives along with decision-making authority, thereby removing some of the administrative inefficiency. Corporatization can be used as a stepping-stone to privatization.

2.1.5 Modern, performance-oriented management procedures should be instituted and supported by appropriate management reporting systems. They should include fully integrated quantified operational and financial objectives agreed between management and the controlling body. Full consideration should be given to computerization of the organization, particularly information systems, to ensure timely reporting to support management in decision-making. Where management skills are weak or where transfer of technology is seen to be particularly beneficial, a management contract may provide the opportunity for increased efficiency.

2.1.6 Operational practices should be reviewed. Particular attention should be given to areas where significant investment has been made, or is contemplated, in new technology and mechanization but where old chains of command, practices and manning levels remain and anticipated productivity gains have not materialized.

2.1.7 Better planned, managed and financed maintenance will enhance the output of the infrastructure sector and increase the economic life of projects, reducing the costs of both product and new infrastructure demand. Adequate budgets should be provided for maintenance tasks and, where necessary, special hard currency funds should be released expeditiously. In appropriate circumstances, funds should be set aside for the modernization of existing infrastructure and facilities as a priority over new construction.

2.2 Proposals for supporting action at the regional level

2.2.1 Regional initiatives to support Governments in the process of updating legislation, administrative practices and procedures will provide the catalyst to trigger national action. Comparative studies on the scope and content of enabling legislation, with particular reference to the streamlining of procedures, delegation of authority and the legal status of the private sector, will be undertaken. These studies, which may transcend regional boundaries, and the follow-up expert group meetings will provide a framework for the drafting of legislative guidelines at the country level. The studies could also provide guidance for national reviews of administrative practices/procedures and form the core of

training programmes and advisory services designed to encourage the modernization of legislation and administration.

2.2.2 Research and analysis will be undertaken to develop model quantified objectives which, along with examples of successful transition of agencies from operating to regulatory bodies, will assist Governments in formulating appropriate national schemes and provide the basis for the corporate planning processes of the individual agencies. Implementation assistance through training, advisory services and exchanges of experience will also demonstrate, in a practical manner, the scope and form the objectives would take in practice. The institutionalization of the objectives may be introduced ahead of legislative changes and at a later stage could provide core performance objectives for inclusion in contracts with the private sector.

2.2.3 Outdated management systems in public sector enterprises are common to many countries of the region. Improvement of the situation could therefore be achieved by a cost-effective regional solution through the development and implementation of model management systems which would embody modern corporate planning techniques. The models, which could be adjusted to specific national and sector requirements, would form the core training activities, implementation assistance and advisory services. They would include guidance on the application of electronic data-processing technologies to support management decision-making and be the focus of modular computer software development and exchange.

2.2.4 Assistance at the regional level, through the sharing of experience on "good operating practices" and the adoption of new technologies, can assist in the formulation of improved organizational arrangements and timely implementation of appropriate operating practices when new equipment is introduced.

2.2.5 Regional reinforcement of the importance of maintenance in itself will help to draw attention to the significant financial and human resources that need to be assigned to this area of work. Guidance on the appropriate planning, budgeting and implementation of improved maintenance of infrastructure and facilities can be given through publications, human resources activities and the distribution of specially developed software designed to assist the management process. Specific areas of coverage would include, but not be limited to, asset management, life-cycle planning, stock control and job costing techniques.

3. Private sector participation

44. The potential for increasing the role of the private sector in infrastructure financing, management, operations and risk-sharing should be explored so that it can make a greater contribution to national progress within the overall context of infrastructure development. The private sector is seen in many countries as the engine which has driven economic growth. It has access to financial resources, technical expertise and, sometimes, markets which the public sector alone may find difficult to exploit. It is claimed that under the right circumstances the private sector also exhibits higher levels of productivity and cost efficiency than the public sector. In this respect, the introduction of competition through increased participation of the private sector can significantly improve the efficiency of infrastructure delivery. With privatization of the existing infrastructure, Governments may also be able to raise capital, for priority projects, through the sale of specific infrastructure businesses as ongoing concerns.

3.1 Proposals for action at the country level

3.1.1 Governments should identify the areas in which the private sector can participate beneficially in infrastructure investment, management, operations and maintenance. Considerations will be founded on delineation of the particular problems that private sector participation is expected to overcome and the issues that will be raised if the policy is implemented. Factors such as strategic national interests, the need for and level of retained control, labour reaction, projected financial returns on projects, the sharing of risks and the investment burden will all need to be taken into account.

3.1.2 Governments should create a climate that will attract the private sector to participate in infrastructure investment. This will involve, but not be restricted to, providing a legislative framework that safeguards national interests while supporting private ownership and providing the opportunity for flexible and responsive decision-making. Appropriate mechanisms should be enabled to allow discretionary redeployment of accrued profits and benefits by the private sector.

3.1.3 Governments and agencies should provide comprehensive details of projects for potential private sector financing, including projected returns on investment, both financial and economic. The availability of such information provides the basis for constructive dialogue between the public and the private sector.

3.1.4 To create additional confidence, Governments should take action to ensure an equitable sharing of risk between the public and private sector. Within a project cycle, a process of pre-qualification of a reasonable number of competent firms should be adopted, thus minimizing waste and demonstrating government commitment. A clear picture of the Government's long-term perception of the position of the private sector within its national strategy should be clearly elaborated

3.1.5 Governments should consider alternative forms of private sector participation which, under given circumstances and retained levels of control, will provide alternative benefits, for example, in terms of technology transfer (management contract and long-term leasing), efficiency and reduced cost (corporatization and privatization), lower investment and government involvement (BOT), recovery of sunk investments (privatization and the sale of assets) and disinvestment.

3.2 Proposals for supporting action at the regional level

3.2.1 Within the region, experience of private sector participation has taken many forms, from ownership and operation of assets through to subcontracting services. Each of the alternatives can have advantages and disadvantages under different political, economic, financial, social and project circumstances; however, little comparative analysis has been undertaken and countries are, therefore, not fully informed of the options available to them. Regional action in this respect will provide a checklist of issues and problems which may be resolved by involving the private sector. This will assist national policy makers and provide indications of the potential benefits that the alternative approaches may offer under specific conditions.

3.2.2 Surveys and studies of public and private sector perceptions of project requirements will be undertaken to determine and catalogue criteria for success. Taking these factors into account, regional guidance could be provided on the formulation of projects for private sector involvement, including the identification of key elements to be incorporated in project offerings, possible negotiating positions and methodologies to make projects more attractive to potential investors. This approach would provide the opportunity for a measure of uniformity between projects, thereby expediting their evaluation both by the country and the private sector through comparisons with other projects. Such uniformity could also lay the groundwork for increased regional cooperation in seeking financing for projects.

3.2.3 Developing materials for distribution and conducting awareness-creation seminars on the ways and means of attracting private sector involvement in infrastructure development will be undertaken at the regional and subregional levels to facilitate private sector involvement and reinforce national initiatives.

3.2.4 Model formats for the presentation of information on project proposals will be developed and distributed. Special reference to the required coverage and level of information detail for projects being considered for potential private sector funding will be included.

3.2.5 Model agreements will be developed which can be adopted as the basis for contracts between the public and private sectors. Core inputs for this process will be existing documents which have been applied in the region and on which experience has already been obtained.

4. Logistics and facilitation

45. The provision of adequate transport and telecommunications facilities is one of the necessary conditions for supporting a country's trade. Of equal importance, however, is the requirement that passengers, goods and transport vehicles can utilize the facilities efficiently in order to meet the demands of price-conscious and time-sensitive markets. A large number of international conventions have been designed to facilitate the international movement of passengers, goods and vehicles; however, many countries have not acceded to these conventions or harmonized national legislation, bilateral or subregional agreements with them. Similarly, many countries have their own transport and trade documentation which is unduly complex and does not match documentation in other countries. Simplification and standardization of these documents to conform with the standard aligned systems would make a significant contribution to the facilitation of international trade and traffic.

46. The introduction of the freight container has been a technological advance which can increase the efficiency of the transport sector; however, in many countries its full intermodal potential has not been realized in the logistics of international production and distribution.

4.1 Proposals for action at the country level

4.1.1 Logistics studies should be undertaken to identify and quantify the impact of bottlenecks in terms of time and cost. Infrastructural, institutional, documentary and operational factors should be encompassed to assist in prioritizing actions which will have the greatest impact within short- and longer-term strategies.

4.1.2 Implementation of relevant international/regional transport and trade conventions and instruments, which will facilitate trade and the international transport of passengers, goods and vehicles, should be integrated within national legislation and bilateral or subregional agreements. As an integral element of this process, countries should participate more actively in the deliberations of international and regional bodies with responsibilities for the creation and maintenance of international conventions.

4.1.3 Countries should consider the standardization, simplification and harmonization of transport and trade documentation with the standard aligned system of the United Nations.

4.1.4 Active support should be given to the strengthening of professional freight forwarders and multimodal transport operators through the establishment of standards, qualifications and codes of practice; promotion and strengthening of national associations; human resources development; and the establishment of multimodal transport committees.

4.1.5 Countries should also consider the introduction or strengthening of the computerization of trade, transport, communications and postal services as well as customs clearance procedures and the application of electronic data interchange (EDI) networks to facilitate the logistics process.

4.2 Proposals for supporting action at the regional level

4.2.1 Logistics and corridor studies will be undertaken aimed at intensifying transport and trade flows through the identification of main bottlenecks to the smooth flow of passengers, goods and vehicles and assisting in the implementation of solutions which will mitigate their effect.

4.2.2 Assistance will be provided to individual and groups of countries wishing to accede to international conventions and to adopt facilitation measures. Simplified explanations of relevant international conventions and their implications will be drafted to include legal precedents. Seminars on the implications of accession to various international conventions will be organized and expert group meetings convened to consider problems, bottlenecks and facilitation measures in the field of trade and transport. Advisory services will be provided to overcome problems.

4.2.3 Guidelines at the policy and operational level for the adoption of multimodal transport, freight forwarding and electronic data interchange systems will be developed. Sharing of experience on their harmonization and implementation will be promoted through regional and subregional forums convened to create awareness and review the latest developments. Training of trainers programmes will also be developed and delivered.

5. Environment and safety

47. Infrastructure development can have a massive and irreversibly detrimental impact on the environment. It is the responsibility of Governments and their agencies to ensure that, irrespective of the scale of infrastructure projects, the impact on the environment is minimized. With growing competition and the intensive search for least-cost production, appropriate environmental guidelines and standards must be established, monitored and enforced. These standards should be applied conscientiously in all project phases, including design, construction, operation, and in relation to the residual impact of infrastructure developments. More effective modalities need to be put in place for the evaluation of the growing number of projects whose impact transcends national boundaries.

48. Safety standards in relation to all aspects of the infrastructure sector development and operation are often poorly defined and enforced. The transport of hazardous cargoes often poses a greater threat to the community and environment than when they are stored at their eventual industrial destination, even though the quantities may be smaller. The reason is that the problems are magnified as a whole range of hazardous goods, sometimes in one shipment, have to transit corridors which often pass through population centres. Accidents involving hazardous cargoes occur all too frequently, yet many of the countries do not have contingency plans setting out responsibilities, key personnel or procedures to be followed.

5.1 Proposals for action at the country level

5.1.1 Environmental impact assessment should be made mandatory for all projects in the infrastructure sector. Governments should

review current environmental guidelines and standards to ensure that they correspond to international standards.

5.1.2 Adequate maintenance and improved management of existing infrastructure, which has already had an impact on the environment, should be given high priority as a means of extending economic life and minimizing the need for new building.

5.1.3 The impact of existing infrastructure on the environment should be evaluated and, where appropriate, operating systems upgraded through the adoption of more environmentally friendly technologies.

5.1.4 Safety standards, regulations and their enforcement should be kept under constant review and upgraded where necessary to conform to accepted standards.

5.1.5 The procedures and documentation for moving hazardous goods on transport infrastructure links and storing these goods at nodes should be reviewed and the necessary changes implemented. Appropriate contingency plans which can effectively limit the impact of accidents involving hazardous goods should be set in place.

5.2 Proposals for supporting action at the regional level

5.2.1 Countries will be assisted in the implementation of the provisions of Agenda 21 which relate to infrastructure and as prioritized within national programmes.

5.2.2 Guidelines for the implementation of environmental impact assessments will be updated or developed and national capabilities upgraded through assistance in their application which can provide opportunities for on-the-job training initiatives.

5.2.3 Cross-country studies of the impact of existing infrastructure on the environment, including the perceptions of the communities affected and compliance with technical standards, will be undertaken. Sharing of experience in the reduction of pollution from infrastructure facilities, including the adoption of more environmentally friendly technologies, tuning of equipment, alternate fuel usage and emission control technologies, will be promoted through the exchange of information and expertise.

5.2.4 Model contingency response plans will be developed as the basis for national formulations which will take into account local circumstances while ensuring consistency in their coverage and maintenance of minimum safety standards. Subregional agreements on collaboration in cases of significant disasters through the sharing of resources will be facilitated.

6. Human resources development capabilities

49. Effective human resources development strategies and programmes to upgrade skills should be fully integrated into the infrastructure development process. The planning, design, operation and maintenance of infrastructure facilities all rely equally on the appropriate skills being available. Investment in human resources development is recognized as one of the most fundamental and cost-effective factors contributing to economic growth. Additional resources should be focused on improving educational and training opportunities which will enhance capability in the infrastructure sector and can provide the opportunity for mobility of labour, thereby harnessing the strength of the often abundant human resources. In the short term, opportunities to explore alternative sources of expertise to strengthen capability and create the opportunity for technology transfer may be employed.

50. Commission resolution 50/7 of 13 April 1994 on the update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region contains a comprehensive approach to human resources development. The following proposals reiterate a number of items of specific relevance to infrastructure.

6.1 Proposals for action at the country level

6.1.1 Guidelines for the integration of human resources development strategies into infrastructure development and their financing should be developed and implemented. Such guidelines should not just focus on the allocation of capital budget, but should encompass the continuing need for quality training and retraining to ensure that the needed skills are in place.

6.1.2 A human resources development department should be established in each of the infrastructure subsectors with direct reporting to the highest authority in order better to develop and utilize the organization's personnel. The department should deal with human resources planning, career development and organizational development.

6.1.3 The capability and capacity of educational institutions should be enhanced and reoriented to match the requirements in the infrastructure sector more effectively. Qualified instructors should be recruited, adequate facilities and equipment provided and institutes encouraged to develop curricula and deliver relevant

courses, including those designed to prepare personnel for self-employment.

6.2 *Proposals for supporting action at the regional level*

6.2.1 Implementation assistance will be provided to countries in achieving the objectives of the Jakarta Plan of Action and as prioritized within their own national programmes.

6.2.2 Considerable experience already exists in the region of the needed integration of human resources development policies and strategies within the development process to support rapid economic growth. Comparative studies of human resources development policies applied in countries at different levels of development will be undertaken to provide the basis for the development of guidelines for adjustment and adoption at the national level. Results would include indicators as to levels of investment and evaluation methodologies.

6.2.3 Review of policies, activities and experiences in the changing employment environment associated with improved efficiency of the infrastructure sector will be undertaken as the basis for exchanges of experience. Modalities to upgrade skills within the sector and to increase the mobility of labour will be investigated.

7. Poverty alleviation, rural areas and disadvantaged population groups

51. The integration of effective policies with infrastructure development in the transport, communications, power and water sectors will provide the opportunity for improved physical access while creating a wealthier community. The development of infrastructure can be directly equated with economic development and, potentially, job creation. In many countries the rural population is a significant part of the community, but has only restricted access to infrastructure services, limiting the role rural people can play in economic development and effectively precluding them from receiving basic services. The infrastructure sector has contributed successfully to a number of employment generation programmes. The extension of such programmes offers considerable potential for the raising of living standards of economically and socially disadvantaged groups.

7.1 *Proposals for action at the country level*

7.1.1 Governments should review domestic spatial planning policies and infrastructure sector employment potential to create the opportunity for reducing the concentration of poverty.

7.1.2 Special attention should be given to the development of decentralized infrastructure specially to the remote and less developed areas to enhance the opportunity of the rural population to contribute to economic growth.

7.1.3 Policies should be developed to encourage agencies and organizations to give serious consideration to the involvement of women and disadvantaged population groups and thereby explore alternative sources of expertise and broaden the base of the workforce.

7.2 *Proposals for supporting action at the regional level*

7.2.1 Methodologies for studies on the impact of infrastructure investment in the transport, communications, power and water supply sectors on the rural and urban poor will be developed and assistance in their implementation provided. Regional exchanges of ideas and experience will be supported.

7.2.2 Guidelines and technical assistance will be provided to institutionalize impact assessment for infrastructure investment on the poor, in particular to prevent the displacement of poor communities and where necessary to mitigate its effects through relocation and equitable compensation.

7.2.3 Research will be undertaken into the special problems of financing, administration and coordination of rural infrastructure development, operation and maintenance as the basis for the formulation of guidelines and the exchange of experience.

7.2.4 Technical assistance will be provided to promote appropriate labour-intensive infrastructure construction and maintenance technologies which generate employment opportunities while supporting project objectives.

7.2.5 Research into low-cost and other technologies that provide increased opportunities for community participation in infrastructure development and operation will be undertaken. Special consideration will be given to the services and requirements of the poor communities.

7.2.6 Research into the participation of women in the infrastructure subsectors will be undertaken and assistance provided to member countries in formulating appropriate policies and strategies for promoting the participation of women in these subsectors.

8. Infrastructure needs of the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition

52. In the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition, special and significant problems exist which intensify the difficulties in providing adequate and efficient infrastructure. Specific areas in the implementation of national and regional transport sector plans include: developing ports, roads, rural tracks and railways; training the required manpower and setting up indigenous training institutions; creating internal transport facilities, particularly to link remote areas; expanding and improving transit-transport and port facilities in transit countries to facilitate transport to and from land-locked countries; giving appropriate attention to the development of coastal shipping services and of river and lake services; developing, where necessary, joint shipping companies or merchant fleets; overcoming congestion of ports; taking the necessary measures to ensure the management and maintenance of transport equipment.[4] Owing to a lack of investor confidence and limited availability of domestic resources, many of these countries have to rely on ODA to underwrite investment in infrastructure. However, ODA is largely allocated on an annual basis, leading to annual fluctuations; sometimes the major focus is on capital investment, along with tied aid, rather than maintenance. In addition, some donors have started to question the effectiveness of ODA in countries where it would appear that it is having a limited impact on economic progress. At the very basic level, there is a desperate need for spare parts, maintenance equipment and materials: this is only partly due to currency exchange regulations.

8.1 Proposals for action at the country level

8.1.1 The least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition can increase the confidence of donors by ensuring that investment resources, including ODA, are devoted to projects that contribute directly to increasing the pace of economic development. Priority allocation of government resources to development of the infrastructure sector and the implementation of administrative and management improvements, as set out in previous recommendations, should be of high priority in this process and in attracting higher levels of foreign investment.

8.1.2 Long-term strategic plans leading to sustainable economic development, with details of related national initiatives aimed at increasing efficiency, should be developed to provide a framework for assistance.

8.1.3 Immediate attention should be given to the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure so that it can perform the basic functions for which it was originally designed. Where necessary, special arrangements should be put in place for the expeditious release of the hard currency funds required for spare parts and materials.

8.1.4 Policies designed to create "development concentration zones" should be considered with the objective of attracting investment. Industrial development zones, industrial estates and export processing zones have already been commissioned successfully in the region to provide enhanced levels of infrastructure and services to appropriate investors. This approach also allows Governments to be selective in focusing investment and job-creation opportunities to benefit specific communities.

8.1.5 Approaches to provide improved access and transit arrangements, especially for land-locked countries, should be integrated into national infrastructure planning. Particular attention should be given to the facilities required at border-crossings.

8.1.6 Island least developed countries should initiate programmes for the development of their internal and external transport links in order to improve their access to world markets.

8.2 Proposals for supporting action at the regional level

8.2.1 The majority of the supporting regional actions enumerated above are directly relevant to the needs of the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. Within the regional element of the action programme a special concentration of available resources will be devoted to assisting the development of these economies.

8.2.2 The international community, particularly developed countries, should provide technical assistance to the least developed countries to enable them to develop and improve their telecommunications systems, including the use of satellites and other technologies, where appropriate. Least developed countries should devise more effective pricing policies, which reflect economic and social needs.

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[4] See para. 347 above.See the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990* (A/CONF.147/18), para. 111.

8.2.3 Donor countries and agencies need to provide priority attention to the special needs of these groups of countries. Efforts should be made to provide opportunities to share regional experiences of successful infrastructure development. Donors are requested to support and encourage the implementation of joint transport and communications projects between two or more least developed countries, particularly when envisaged in the framework of subregional and regional economic integration.

IV. MODALITIES

53. The national and supporting regional actions elaborated above provide an unambiguous picture of the specific responses to be undertaken under the action plan. Each of the actions may encompass one or more modalities which will facilitate their achievement. Governments and regional organizations are encouraged to be imaginative in deploying approaches which will capitalize on national and regional resources.

54. Actions at the national level will have a direct impact on the infrastructure sector, resulting in major, measurable improvements in efficiency. Effective implementation, however, will require a fundamental review of regulations, procedures and methodologies by which infrastructure projects are planned, constructed and operated. It can, therefore, be anticipated that the consequences of these activities will be far-reaching in both economic and social terms. The modalities proposed for consideration at the national level are designed to accommodate these issues.

55. Action at the country level is the responsibility of Governments. However, it can be facilitated by action at the regional level. In addition, regional action can be cost-effective in assisting countries of the region in achieving their development objectives in terms of satisfactory levels of infrastructure development and performance. Action in support of national initiatives may include the provision of technical assistance, the development, at the regional level, of models and tools which may be applied in a number of countries at the national or project level, and the production and dissemination of training materials; regional research and development, including comparative studies which could form the basis of exchanges of experience and know-how; and coordination, cooperation and facilitation of development activities which will become more important as the impact of infrastructure projects increasingly transcends national boundaries.

1. National modalities

56. For the implementation of the national actions proposed within the plan, countries could consider a number of modalities, some of which are listed below.

Policy coordination and rationalization committees. At the highest level of policy development there is a need for collaboration and cooperation in formulating and coordinating policies. The key role of the policy coordination and rationalization committee will be to harmonize strategies and propose appropriate consolidation of resources under responsible ministries and agencies to reach national objectives efficiently.

Internal reviews of efficiency. In many respects, the organizations and agencies providing infrastructure facilities and services are in the best position to identify the factors affecting their own efficiency of delivery. Consequently, internal reviews of efficiency which include specific recommendations concerning the means of addressing inefficiencies can be effective. In some respects, however, these organizations may be too close to the problem or lack the breadth of experience in identifying the causes of inefficiencies. In such cases, outside help could be solicited to assist in such internal reviews.

Sectoral reviews. Efficiency and inefficiency are phenomena which are not necessarily country-specific. For example, a country may have a railway sector which by international standards is considered to be efficient, but a water supply sector which is considered to be relatively inefficient. Consequently, sectoral reviews designed to identify those factors which have contributed towards a sector being considered efficient can assist in improving general efficiency.

Reducing barriers to entry to the provision of infrastructure facilities and services. As noted in the text above, the introduction of competition through increased participation of the private sector can improve the efficiency of infrastructure delivery. The adoption of policies which reduce or remove barriers to entry of the private sector will facilitate such competition. However, in devising such policies, consideration also needs to be given to any impediments to existing public sector agencies effectively competing with the new entrants.

Corporatization and commercialization of existing organizations. While corporatization and commercialization can be ends in themselves, they can provide the basis of an important modality to increase public sector efficiency in every element of the infrastructure sector. The very process of commercialization infers a fundamental review of current performance and the identification of bottlenecks and impediments which preclude the public sector from performing effectively.

Demonstration projects. Demonstration projects provide a platform for testing legislative, administrative and technological reforms prior to national implementation. Through this approach, which can be aimed at smaller-scale activities, important experience can be gained which will help adjust approaches and avoid serious pitfalls.

Development zones. The creation of regional development zones and industrial estates can provide the opportunity to focus developmental effort. This may include providing improved utilities (transport, power and communications services) within the areas to provide stable and more efficient services. National and foreign investment can also be encouraged in these areas, particularly if they are export-oriented, through special fiscal and licensing concessions, as has been the case in Sri Lanka within export processing zones and Thailand with the creation of the Industrial Estate Authority. This approach lends itself to the innovative application of new regulatory schemes which may be tested prior to national-level implementation.

Public/private sector consultative committees. The private sector involvement in all areas of infrastructure financing, development, usage and the consumption of outputs is becoming increasingly important in all countries of the region. Through the formal establishment of public/private sector consultative committees, Governments will be able to maintain a constructive dialogue with the private sector and thereby create an important information and potential resource flow.

Facilitation committees. The development of infrastructure and the provision of efficient services and outputs often rely on the harmonious interaction between several parties from both the public and the private sector. Difficult issues often arise because of the need for various ministries, sometimes with conflicting short-term objectives, to work together. Similarly, implementation of conventions and instruments to streamline operations, such as multimodal transport, requires the collaboration of various agents. Facilitation committees can provide the opportunity for problems and issues to be resolved at the working level where optimum solutions can be identified. Such an approach can result in major improvements in productivity and cost reductions through non-investment solutions.

Interdisciplinary teams. In each of the countries of the region there is a valuable resource of experts that are recognized for the incisive inputs they make to their specialist fields of interest. Such experts can be found amongst the nation's statesmen, government employees, industry leaders and academic scholars. Each of these leaders is contributing, in his or her own way, to the common benefit of the country and its people. Unfortunately, they are also often working separately from each other and the potential for interaction and synergy is lost. The organization and convening of interdisciplinary teams of leading experts (which could include retired persons) for special, time-limited tasks could contribute significantly to the process of improving the infrastructure sector.

Reviews of service quality. In the process of evolving their existing structures, many public sector organizations and agencies have lost sight of the fact that one of their primary objectives is to provide a service to consumers. Reorientation of attitudes through, *inter alia*, reviews of service quality can contribute towards increased efficiency in the delivery of infrastructure services.

Infrastructure user groups. Outputs and services from the infrastructure sector are consumed by society as a whole. The forming of infrastructure user groups to provide feedback on specific interests and requirements can provide excellent guidance as to location and optimum design of infrastructure projects. They can also make inputs to the decision-making process as to what services should be provided and how they are packaged to best meet consumer needs. Early consideration of these interests can allow adjustments to be made at minimal cost while benefiting the community as a whole.

2. Regional modalities

57. Specific modalities which can be applied at the regional level in a supportive or even catalytic role in the development process include the following.

Information/data sharing. To provide the basis for regional cooperation, research, information and data should be collected on a regional basis. This can assist in the identification of similar types of projects where information exchanges may be particularly useful, for example, on technology, contract formulation and costs. In addition, details of educational and training opportunities across the region could be disseminated and a regional resource of information on conventions, instruments and other matters established for access by countries of the region.

Comparative studies. Countries of the region are building valuable experience in the implementation of a wide range of initiatives, including public sector reform, implementation of improved management procedures, corporatization, joint ventures, privatization and development of industrial estates. This experience could provide a valuable resource for the region if properly evaluated and, where necessary, transformed into generalized guidelines.

Technical assistance. For all countries, and particularly the disadvantaged among them, there is a need for technical assistance at all levels to support the infrastructure development process. Examples include advice on the drafting of terms of reference, project evaluation, improving management procedures and information systems, maintenance of infrastructure, procurement issues and computerization.

Development of guidelines. Many countries of the region are facing common problems in the development of infrastructure. They therefore lend themselves to a regional approach to their solution through the development of guidelines which can be adjusted to national requirements prior to adoption and

also form the basis for technical assistance in their implementation.

Development and dissemination of models and tools. Purpose-designed models, tools and software to assist Governments and agencies in undertaking their activities more efficiently can be cost-effective if developed at the regional level. Examples could include forecasting models which, taking into account competing and complementary developments across the region, could predict demand and investment requirements; financial and economic planning models designed to assist in the evaluation of investment projects; and management software, for which there is general demand, such as in the area of asset maintenance and control.

Facilitation. Facilitation at border-crossings can provide the opportunity for minimizing delays, costs and demand for infrastructure. With the growth of cross-border transport and trade, the development of freight forwarding and the introduction of multimodal transport, each of which has important international ingredients, regional-level inputs are becoming increasingly important.

Human resources development. Training materials can be developed and delivered through training-of-trainer activities, seminars and workshops, as well as being distributed to national institutions. Networking of training and research institutions, initiated at the regional level, can complement and supplement capability. Action could also be taken to initiate intercountry exchanges of experts to bring practical knowledge and experience of the development process and provide on-the-job training.

Technical cooperation among developing countries. A number of countries of the region are being increasingly recognized as providing successful cases of, for example, financial sector reform or the introduction of BOT. In these and many other areas there is considerable scope for strengthening the mechanisms whereby these experiences can be shared among the developing countries of the region.

Regional and subregional cooperation. There are considerable differences in the stages of economic development that countries of the region have reached, and many countries have adopted different approaches to the provision of infrastructure facilities. Consequently, there is a firm basis for regional and subregional cooperation in the sharing and comparing of experiences in infrastructure development; mutual assistance in human resources development; the development of regional policy and a regulatory environment; and the joint development of infrastructure facilities.

Involvement of subregional organizations. Subregional organizations have an increasingly vital role to play within the infrastructure development context. They already provide a forum for consultation at the policy and technical levels, including coverage of infrastructure issues. This activity can usefully be extended to enhance cooperation among Governments, both mutually and through regional initiatives that can lead to cross-subregional collaboration.

Meetings of chief executives. Regional meetings should be held, at the chief executive level, in which discussions of topical issues should be initiated to assist in fostering a climate for closer collaboration and problem-solving through the sharing of experience. Examples of issues which would be covered in such meetings include pricing policy, technology developments, human resources development and new initiatives.

Meetings of chief administrators of regulatory bodies. Chief administrators of regulatory bodies play an important role in the development, management, utilization and maintenance of infrastructure in the region. However, there is no regular opportunity for the chief administrators to meet and share ideas and experiences in infrastructure development in the ESCAP region. Consequently, a forum whereby chief administrators or regulatory bodies could share and exchange experiences and ideas could assist in the provision of efficient infrastructure and services.

Inter-agency cooperation. Opportunities for increased collaboration between regional agencies, including ESCAP and ADB, should be enhanced through joint identification and, where appropriate, implementation of studies, projects and activities. The implementation of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific has already demonstrated the potential benefits of closer collaboration in focusing development assistance and minimizing the duplication of activities.

V. IMPLEMENTATION, PRIORITIES, TIME-FRAME AND MONITORING

Implementation

58. Coordination and cooperation will be key factors in the effective implementation of plans and programmes at the national level in overcoming shortfalls in the infrastructure sector. They are also particularly necessary among agencies and organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, that are active in providing assistance to countries.

59. At the national level, each Government will need to set clear-cut goals and devise national implementation strategies which will lead to the fulfilment of the proposals contained in the action plan. Mobilization of the private sector as a partner in this process will provide the opportunity to identify complementarities in terms of experience, expertise and

resources which will inspire increased levels of collaboration with the parties concerned.

60. At the regional level, all the concerned United Nations agencies and institutions will be able to contribute to the implementation of the action plan. Included in this process will be the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Development Programme, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Telecommunication Union, International Maritime Organization, World Bank, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Asian Development Bank, and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. Through the joint effort of these bodies a considerable development effort can be mobilized to support the member countries of the region in enhancing infrastructure capacity.

Priorities

61. The action plan promotes an integrated approach to addressing the issues of infrastructure development. Each of its eight theme areas includes proposals for action at the country level and supporting action at the regional level. Although not comprehensive, they represent priority activities which together will significantly enhance the performance of the infrastructure sector. They will also reduce the investment "gap" by increasing output from existing infrastructure and demonstrating to potential donors the earnest efforts being made to create the right investment climate. In developing the action plan, special consideration has been given to the maximum utilization of available regional resources for the benefit of capacity-building.

62. Further delineation of priorities within the overall framework of the action plan will follow the formulation of specific programmes and projects for implementation. Detailed priority-setting at the national level, perhaps with regional assistance, will depend on a critical perception of the major constraints and shortcomings within the prevailing political and social context. Each country will be required to determine the priorities as part of its national strategy. Not all the recommendations will apply equally to all countries.

63. Priority-setting at the regional level will involve further reflection and a critical review of the action plan at various legislative meetings. At the implementation level, regular contact between the involved United Nations agencies and recipient countries will provide the opportunity for adjustment of implementation schedules in response to changing national priorities.

64. Mechanisms to involve the infrastructure user community and the private sector to participate in the process of priority-setting at both the national and regional levels will be instituted.

Time-frame

65. Preferably, action in implementing of the plan should begin immediately. It is, however, recognized that the proposed removal of the deeply rooted institutional obstacles to infrastructure development is not just a technical issue but involves a re-education process that will touch upon many sensitive areas. In addition, the lead time and scale of infrastructure projects dictate that, for the programme to be implemented in full, the concerted, coordinated efforts of countries and regional institutions will have to be brought to bear through and beyond the new century.

66. In view of the above, the time-frame for the implementation of the action plan will extend from the time of its adoption as the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, over the period of the upcoming medium-term plan, through to the year 2003.

Monitoring

67. The implementation of the action plan will provide a logical continuation of the work already under way within the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific. It is proposed that a similar framework for monitoring, which has proved successful for the Decade, be adopted for monitoring implementation of the action plan. Inter-agency meetings, ad hoc intergovernmental meetings or legislative committees will provide the opportunity for the annual discussion of topical issues of concern to the region. Through this approach, implementation of the action plan can be kept under review and redirection given, as required, to ensure that planned activities and outputs remain relevant to the priority needs of member countries.

68. To facilitate the monitoring process, specific and measurable achievement indicators will be developed and consolidated within individual projects.

69. Detailed progress reports will be submitted to the Committee for Transport and Communications for consideration at its biennial sessions. In presenting progress reports, countries will be invited to keep the Committee informed of the progress of implementation at the country level. A consolidated report on the activities and outputs from the regional programme will also be reported.

VI. STRATEGIES FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

70. The scale and goals of the action plan are ambitious. At the national level, actions call for a fundamental examination of current practices and the implementation of far-reaching proposals to increase

efficiency and output from the infrastructure sector while reducing costs. Such a process will not be easy, as it will have an impact on all aspects of policy formulation, administration, management and operations. However, the potential benefits will fully justify the resources deployed in achieving a new level of economic and social development.

71. Every effort should be made to mobilize traditional and non-traditional resources to support the proposals for action at the national and regional levels. For many countries, this will require efforts to mobilize domestic savings. In this respect, initiatives taken to implement the action plan at the national level, with resulting benefits to the infrastructure sector, will generate increased confidence in the process and encourage support from potential domestic and international donors.

72. Within the region, extensive resources exist in terms of expertise and experience which could be deployed to facilitate infrastructure development. Through a process based on technical cooperation between developing countries, it will be possible to explore the sharing of a wide range of these resources, including training facilities, to provide, among other things, educational opportunities for overseas personnel; educators, who could travel to other countries and assist in the development of training programmes and delivery of materials; experts, who could share their experience with others; and information, which could assist in avoiding obstacles and overcoming problems. To support such initiatives, action at the regional level to assist in "matchmaking" could create openings for the extensive application of this approach.

73. The private sector, indigenous and foreign, will have an important role to play in sharing expertise and through direct involvement in financing and managing infrastructure projects. Its role, however, should not be constrained to particular project areas. Instead it should be encouraged to support the process of change through the contribution of expertise and financial support. With the expeditious implementation of the action plan, the private sector will be able to invest in an environment more closely attuned to the level of confidence and efficiency which will allow it to perform more effectively.

74. Many countries, including the least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition, will require considerable assistance from both national resources, from within the public and private sectors, and from regional and subregional institutions and donor Governments.

75. All concerned donor countries and agencies need to give special attention to the provision of financial and technical assistance for the execution of the programmes and projects to be implemented under the action plan. Through concerted and continuing insistence on priority support for the implementation of the action plan in the highest national, bilateral and regional forums, donor contribution and collaboration can be secured. Demonstration of progress in implementation, at the national and regional levels, will be the strongest of arguments for continued support.

51/9. Mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s[9]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 47/4 of 10 April 1991 on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, in which the Commission stressed that the successful implementation of the Programme of Action would depend on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership for the growth and development of the least developed countries,

Recalling also its resolution 49/8 of 29 April 1993, in which the Commission invited all members and associate members to participate actively and to extend generous assistance in the preparation of the mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 49/98 of 19 December 1994, in which the Assembly decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995, and requested all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to submit reports containing a review of the implementation of the Programme of Action as inputs to the preparation for the mid-term global review,

Taking note of the Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 4 October 1994, in pursuance of the decision taken at the Ministerial Meeting held in Dhaka in February 1990,

Emphasizing that the main objective of the Programme of Action is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries, to reactivate and accelerate their growth and development, and to set them on the path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

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[9] See para. 444 above.

Emphasizing further that the mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action is of particular significance as it provides an opportunity to set out new policies and measures, including strengthened external support to the least developed countries, so as to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the decade,

Noting with appreciation the concerns expressed by members and associate members for the special needs of the least developed and land-locked developing countries within the context of the Programme of Action,

Also noting with appreciation the assistance provided by the developing countries in the region to the least developed and land-locked developing countries under economic and technical cooperation arrangements, and their stated intention to expand such assistance,

Deeply concerned about the slow progress in the attainment of the economic and social objectives set out in the Programme of Action,

1. *Reaffirms* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities by the least developed countries for their economic and social development, as well as strong and committed partnership between these countries and their development partners;

2. *Urges* the international community to render adequate assistance in support of the development efforts of the least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action;

3. *Endorses* the recommendations made by the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries at its second session;

4. *Calls upon* the secretariat to prepare the regional input for the mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking due account of the recommendations of the Special Body and highlighting the particular needs and concerns of the least developed countries in the region, including the special concerns of the land-locked and island least developed countries;

5. *Urges* all members and associate members to extend full cooperation in the preparations for and active participation in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s to ensure its success;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

51/10. Regional cooperation for the eradication of the demand for drugs subject to abuse and related problems[10]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, in which the Assembly adopted the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action on international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and proclaimed the period from 1991 to 2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse,

Recalling also the responsibilities assigned to the regional commissions in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in Vienna from 17 to 26 June 1987,

Recalling further the Tokyo Declaration on Enhanced Regional Cooperation for Drug Abuse Control in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Meeting of Senior Officials on Drug Abuse Issues in Asia and the Pacific, held in Tokyo from 13 to 15 February 1991, and endorsed by the Commission at its forty-seventh session, held in Seoul in April 1991, and also recalling the Sydney Declaration on Enhanced Regional Cooperation to Reduce the Risks of Drug Abuse in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Drug Abuse: the Balanced Approach, held in Sydney, Australia, from 29 May to 1 June 1994,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 46/104 of 16 December 1991, by which the United Nations International Drug Control Programme was mandated to coordinate and provide effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities,

Recalling the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1994, which states that the countries of the Oceanic region are increasingly being used as transit points and are at risk of becoming centres for laundering profits from illicit drug trafficking, and which draws attention to the increased cultivation of a very potent species of cannabis in the region, as well as to the increasing number of illicit drug users in the region,

Emphasizing that the problem of drug abuse must be considered within the broader economic and social context in terms of its causes and consequences, as well as the means of its reduction, as set out in the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, which was endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992,

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[10] See para. 337 above.

Expressing grave concern over the rapid spread and increasing severity of drug abuse and related problems, such as crime, family breakdown and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome, in Asia and the Pacific, particularly among the poor,

Convinced that the resource book on measures to reduce illicit demand for drugs, which was published in 1982 and will be updated by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, will be a useful reference in developing effective national programmes for drug demand reduction, with special attention to the basic principles of demand reduction to be included in the updated version of the book,

Taking cognizance of the links between drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking and other related organized criminal activities which undermine the economies and threaten the stability, security and sovereignty of States,

Mindful of the activities being undertaken by the Commission, in close collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and other concerned United Nations bodies and agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization, as well as the Colombo Plan Bureau, to develop effective national programmes for drug demand reduction, with particular attention to community-based approaches to drug demand reduction,

Appreciative of the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to improve collaboration among members and associate members in drug demand reduction and related problems, particularly through the regional network of national focal points on demand aspects of drug abuse control,

1. *Urges* all members and associate members to accord priority to the development and implementation of effective policies and programmes to reduce the demand for drugs subject to abuse;

2. *Invites* all members and associate members which have not already done so to establish national focal points on demand aspects of drug abuse control as members of the regional network of national focal points on demand aspects of drug abuse control, and to provide all such focal points with the requisite mandates and resources to enable them to discharge their duties effectively;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as well as all other concerned United Nations bodies and agencies, to intensify their collaboration with ESCAP in activities aimed at the reduction of drug demand and related problems at the regional, subregional and national levels;

4. *Urges* all members and associate members to substantially promote their activities and methods for treatment and rehabilitation for drug abusers;

5. *Invites* all concerned non-governmental, private voluntary, and community-based organizations to offer their facilities, and to work in close coordination with Governments in the region, in the common effort to reduce the demand for drugs subject to abuse;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to available resources:

(a) To collaborate with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in undertaking further studies, where needed, on national policies and means of regional cooperation to reduce drug demand and related problems, with particular reference to the poor;

(b) To ensure that adequate assistance is provided to all members and associate members in the development and strengthening of comprehensive policies and programmes for the reduction of drug demand and the alleviation of related problems;

(c) To continue to promote the regional network of national focal points on demand aspects of drug abuse control, and to provide technical assistance to the countries and areas of the Pacific subregion in exploring the possibility of establishing a subregional training centre for drug demand reduction with no expectation that such a centre would be a subsidiary body of ESCAP;

(d) To explore the possibility, in close collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, of convening a regional expert meeting on drug abuse control in the Asian and Pacific region;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, and on proposed follow-up measures.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

51/11. Regional cooperation on space applications for environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific[11]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 47/8 of 10 April 1991, by which it was decided to continue to promote and strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration in satellite technology applications for sustainable natural resources and environmental management, space technology and natural disaster reduction,

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[11] See para. 280 above.

Recalling also its resolution 49/5 of 29 April 1993 on the regional programme on space applications for development, in which it was decided to hold the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific in Beijing in September 1994,

Noting with satisfaction the success of the Ministerial Conference, which adopted the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development, and the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and launched the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development,

Bearing in mind the strong interest of members and associate members in participating in the cooperative activities that would emerge from the Programme and their commitment to contribute to those activities,

Convinced of the essential role of space information technologies and their applications in environmental and natural resource management, human development and poverty alleviation, and sustainable development planning, including natural disaster reduction,

Recalling the efforts of the Commission in promoting space applications for sustainable development in the region and its commitment to continue to play a pivotal and catalytic role in that regard,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing in September 1994;

2. *Endorses also* the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development, and the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Calls* for the early implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, the Beijing Declaration, the Strategy and the Action Plan;

4. *Urges* all members and associate members to participate actively in the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and also to initiate vigorously national implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan;

5. *Recommends* that the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, under the purview of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, which would advise as appropriate on the implementation of the Programme, and urges members and associate members to enhance their representation in the reconstituted Committee;

6. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, and donor countries and agencies to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, the Beijing Declaration, the Strategy and the Action Plan;

7. *Reiterates* the call by the Ministerial Conference to include the Regional Space Applications Programme, as envisaged in the Action Plan, in the next intercountry programme of the United Nations Development Programme;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the activities proposed in the Action Plan and to incorporate the Regional Space Applications Programme in the next medium-term plan;

(b) To strengthen infrastructure within the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement the Programme successfully;

(c) To mobilize both human and financial resources for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, the Beijing Declaration, the Strategy and the Action Plan;

(d) To report to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the implementation of these recommendations, and, as proposed in the Beijing Declaration, to include in its agenda an item on space technology applications for sustainable development.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

51/12. Strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific[12]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; 42/189 of 11 December 1987 on the Plan of Action, 44/172 of 19 December 1989 concerning implementation of the Plan of Action, 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it

[12] See para. 251 above.

established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 48/175 of 21 December 1993, on drought and desertification, and 48/191 of 21 December 1993, on the elaboration of an international convention,

Recalling the decision of the Commission at its forty-third session to establish the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific, in response to decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, to combat desertification in Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind that in the long term the problems of drought, desertification and land degradation have serious worldwide economic and social consequences,

Deeply concerned over the immensity and magnitude of land degradation and desertification in the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting the economic and social consequences of desertification for the affected countries,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling the guidelines and arrangements of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia to the Convention,

Reaffirming its commitment to the provisions of the Convention and its Regional Implementation Annex for Asia,

Recognizing the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in full and expeditious implementation of the Convention,

Further recognizing the activities conducted by the Regional Network,

1. *Urges* the Governments of the Asian and Pacific region that have not yet signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to join the countries that have already become signatories;

2. *Urges* the members of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific to provide further support for its strengthening;

3. *Welcomes* the provision of the facility in cash and in kind by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Programme Office for the Regional Network in Tehran, and the designation of an interim coordinator for the Office to facilitate the coordination and programming of Network activities;

4. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue their strong support to, and cooperation with ESCAP for the implementation of, the Convention, in line with the guidelines and arrangements contained in the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia to the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, to convene a high-level meeting of the Regional Network to develop the work programme of the Network and to elaborate further the role and mandate of the Programme Office for the Regional Network;

6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to continue to provide the necessary advisory services to countries of the Regional Network;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

12th meeting
1 May 1995

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1996-1997

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Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1996-1997

Programme 31: Regional Cooperation for Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 1: Regional economic cooperation

Current situation and orientation:

1. The work programme on regional economic cooperation is formulated within the framework of the revised medium-term plan for 1992-1997. The current situation with respect to the achievement of the objectives of the medium-term plan is such that they are still in the process of being implemented, taking into account the recent mandates given by the Commission and the decisions of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group, which focus on priorities and issues. To address these issues a convergent and concerted set of research and operational activities were initiated at the start of the implementation of the objectives of the medium-term plan, which have increasingly acquired significance for the implementation of new mandates.

2. The set of activities carried out under the subprogramme during the biennium 1994-1995 focused on structural changes, economic restructuring and policy reforms. They consisted of both research and operational activities which were implemented with the objective of strengthening institutional capacities, skills development, and promoting trade, investment and technology linkages in the region.

3. The primary objectives of the subprogramme during the biennium 1996-1997 will be to support and further spread the development dynamism being experienced by an increasing number of developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region. To that end, the subprogramme will focus on bringing analytical perspectives on economic development issues, strategies and policies; identifying and analysing emerging development challenges facing the countries of the region, as well as the deepening trends towards greater complementarity and interdependence among them. The programme activities will emphasize the continued support for structural changes and policy reforms, strengthening of industry, trade, investment and technology linkages in the region, promotion of institutional capabilities and development of human resources. The programme will also examine the implications of the "Agenda for Development" as a basis for strengthening regional economic cooperation.

4. Efforts will be intensified to assist the developing members and associate members of the Commission in the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements to facilitate their technological and manufacturing competitiveness and transition to the evolving new trade and investment regimes and help them gain maximum benefit from the implementation of those agreements. Initiatives will be taken to assist them in the context of the new and emerging issues, such as the impact on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and trade-related investment measures, trade in services, trade and environment, as well as emerging issues of labour standards and social clauses related to trade and competition policies.

5. The potential offered by the growing prospects of intraregional trade, investment and technology transfer and industrial complementation will be effectively pursued. Regional, subregional and inter-subregional cooperation will be fostered. Special efforts will be made to better utilize the existing regional instruments and promote other relevant instruments for the expansion of intraregional trade and investment. Trade efficiency measures, including business process re-engineering, will be promoted and stimulated through increased use of recent developments in information and communication technologies and with special attention to the role of the private sector. Likewise, improved quality control through the ISO 9000 series will be pursued.

6. Intensified efforts will be made to enable greater participation of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition to the mainstream of the region's economic development. Greater involvement of the subregional organizations, research institutions, private sector and the business community and other non-governmental organizations in the implementation of various activities will be promoted.

Activities:

1.1 International cooperation

(e) External relations:

1-1-101 Collaboration with and support to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations outside the United Nations system in strengthening analytical perspectives on economic development issues, industrial and technological development, strategies and policies and on trade and investment issues (1996, 1997)

1-1-102 Servicing of and inputs to meetings of subregional organizations to promote inter-subregional cooperation (1996-1997)

1.2 Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

1-2-101 Reports to the Commission on the progress of activities in regional economic cooperation (4 in 1996, 3 in 1997)

1-2-102 Annual report to the Commission on preparatory activities for the convening of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (1996, 1997)

1-2-103 Annual report to the Commission on emerging challenges and opportunities for regional economic cooperation (1996, 1997)

1-2-104 Reports to the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on aspects of regional economic cooperation (3 in 1996, 3 in 1997)

1-2-105 Reports on priority and emerging issues to the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (6 in 1996, 6 in 1997)

1-2-106 Report to the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (1997)

1-2-107 Report to the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (1996, 1997)

(b) Substantive services:

1-2-201 Substantive servicing of the Commission (1996, 1997)

1-2-202 Substantive servicing of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (1997)

1-2-203 Substantive servicing of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (1996, 1997)

1-2-204 Substantive servicing of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (biannual)

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

1-2-301 Ad hoc expert group on development issues and policies, and related reporting (1996, 1997)

1-2-302 Ad hoc expert group on new approaches in industrial financing, including related reporting (1996)

1-2-303 Ad hoc expert group on regional cooperation measures for assessment and adoption of new and clean technologies, and related reporting (1997)

1-2-304 Ad hoc expert group on inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment, and related reporting (1997)

1.3 Published material

(a) Recurrent publications:

1-3-101 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (1996, 1997)

1-3-102 Asia-Pacific Development Journal (biannual)

1-3-103 Development Papers (1997)

1-3-104 Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific (1996, 1997)

1-3-105 Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (1996, 1997)

1-3-106 Regional Trade and Investment Review (1996, 1997)

1-3-107 TISNET Trade Information Bulletin (23 in 1996, 23 in 1997)

1-3-108 Prices of Selected Asia-Pacific Products (monthly)

1-3-109 Directory of Trade Promotion/Development Organizations of Developing countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific, eighth edition (1997)

1-3-110 Trade review of the Bangkok Agreement (1996, 1997)

1-3-111 Fertilizer Trade Information, Monthly Bulletin

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

1-3-201 Fiscal and financial management issues for the developing economies in the region within the evolving global and regional environment (1997)

1-3-202 Role and implications of macroeconomic policies for promotion of regional economic cooperation (1997)

1-3-203 Macroeconomic policies for restructuring, stabilization and growth in the region with special attention to developments in the regional disadvantaged economies in transition (1996)

1-3-204 Institutional and policy reforms for effective mobilization of private capital for development (1996)

1-3-205 Emerging issues and concerns in industrial development and technological development and restructuring in the post-Uruguay Round period: growing competition and need for improved manufacturing competitiveness (1996)

1-3-206 Cooperative measures for promoting interregional and intraregional flows of industrial investments and technology including for the least developed countries and economies in transition (1997)

1-3-207 Strengthening private sector and non-governmental organization participation, including objective assessment of privatization measures for industrial and technological development (1996)

1-3-208 New and innovative ways to develop and strengthen industrial and technological skills (1996, 1997)

1-3-209 Regional cooperation for the development of export-oriented small and medium industries (1996)

1-3-210 Implications of trade-related investment measures and trade-related intellectual property rights on flows of technology (1996)

1-3-211 Technology indicators and directories of selected research and development institutions, experts and technologies (1996, 1997)

1-3-212 Legal aspects of transfer of new and clean sound technologies (1996)

1-3-213 Implications of the adoption of ISO 9000 and organizational re-engineering measures on technological development (1997)

1-3-214 Studies in trade and investment (4 in 1996, 4 in 1997)

1-3-215 Trade and product profiles (1996, 1997)

1-3-216 Implications of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation for intraregional trade (1996)

1-3-217 Implications of the European Union for the Asian and Pacific economies (1996)

1-3-218 Trade efficiency issues and business process re-engineering (1996, 1997)

1-3-219 Industrial relocation and complementarities — prospects and challenges (1997)

1-3-220 Implications of the adoption of ISO 14000 standards for enhanced export of manufactured goods (1997)

(c) Technical material:

1-3-301 Provision of ad hoc technical information on matters relating to regional economic cooperation in response to requests from the public and private sectors, including non-governmental organizations (1996, 1997)

1.4 Information materials and services

1.5 Operational activities

(a) Advisory services:

1-5-101 Strengthening macroeconomic management, restructuring, stabilization and growth in countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy

1-5-102 Strengthening capabilities for developing and promoting small and medium industries, including their linkages with large industries

1-5-103 Policy formulation and reorientation, including institutional development and strengthening for promoting industrial investment flows and technology transfer

1-5-104 Strengthening capabilities for the development and utilization of information technologies for manufacturing industries

1-5-105 Building up capabilities for the adoption of ISO 9000 and re-engineering measures in small and medium industries

1-5-106 Strengthening the development of trade and investment policy, trade promotion and trade efficiency in the developing economies, particularly economies in transition, least developed countries and geographically disadvantaged countries

1-5-107 Expansion of intraregional trade and investment

1-5-108 Export promotion

1-5-109 Strengthening of regional information services for trade and investment

1-5-110 Promotion of women's participation in economic development

(b) Group training, including seminars, workshops and fellowships:

1-5-201 Macroeconomic management and policy reform in the developing countries of the ESCAP region, including the disadvantaged economies in transition

1-5-202 The Agenda for Development as a basis for strengthening regional economic cooperation

1-5-203 Regional forum for sustainable industrial development and restructuring in Asia and the Pacific

1-5-204 Development of export-oriented small and medium industries, including the adoption of ISO 9000

1-5-205 Promotion of industrial investment technology flows and consultancy services for emerging technologies for manufacturing industries in selected countries

1-5-206 Development of industrial and technological skills

1-5-207 Development and improvement of agro- and allied industries and national capacity-building for diversification of trade

1-5-208 Intra- and inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment

1-5-209 Intraregional trade and investment policies and prospects

1-5-210 Enhancement of regional cooperation in trade efficiency and business process re-engineering

1-5-211 Promotion of exports of developing countries with particular emphasis on least developed and Pacific island countries and developing economies in transition

1-5-212 Implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements and their impact on Asian and Pacific economies and emerging issues related to international trade, investment flows and technology transfer

1-5-213 Trade/transit facilities for land-locked countries

1-5-214 Networks of institutional support for the development of trade and investment flows

1-5-215 Promotion of women's participation in economic development

1-5-216 Strengthening of regional information services for trade and investment

1-5-217 Preparing SMEs for the adoption of ISO 14000 standards

1.6 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

1-6-001 Collaboration with and inputs to the ACC machinery and other bodies, organizations and departments within the United Nations system on activities relating to the subprogramme

1-6-002 Technical and substantive support to the ESCAP Network of Trade Facilitation Bodies (1996, 1997)

1-6-003 Technical and substantive support to regional commodities cooperative arrangements (1996, 1997)

1-6-004 Organization and servicing of the regional Inter-agency Committee on Industrial and Technological Development (1996, 1997)

1-6-005 Technical and substantive support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, a regional institute of ESCAP (1996, 1997)

Subprogramme 2: Environment and sustainable development

Current situation and orientation:

1. The main orientation of subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable development, is strengthening the capability of ESCAP members and associate members in environmental and natural resource management; integration of environmental considerations into economic policy decision-making; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; sustainable rural and urban development; population and sustainable development; and natural disaster reduction.

2. The objectives outlined in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and its subsequent revision are steadily being achieved through the implementation of activities included in the biennial programme of work since the start of the plan period. The programmes of work are also oriented to reflect new mandates that have emerged since 1992.

3. The programme of work and priorities for 1996-1997 under the subprogramme is devised taking fully into account the imperatives of Agenda 21 and other relevant agreements, conventions, resolutions and decisions, in particular the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (Programme of Action), World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Plan of Action), the International Conference on Population and Development (Programme of Action), the global Commission on Sustainable Development (programme of work), the Commission, the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific and the scheduled Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. The subprogramme reflects the high priority accorded to human resources development and institution-building to enhance the capability of developing countries in environmental and natural resource management.

4. With sustainable development as a unifying factor, the proposed activities are geared towards translating Agenda 21 into practical actions through cooperation at the international, regional and subregional levels. In this respect, support will be rendered to national authorities and coordinated action between national authorities and non-governmental organizations will be encouraged.

5. The subprogramme derives from regional approaches to sustainable development and technical cooperation in endogenous capacity-building, with special reference to the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development and the Framework of Regional Action for Asia and the Pacific, the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation for Investment-related Technology Transfer, the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, and the Action Plan on, and Strategy for Regional Cooperation in, Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

6. While some of the proposed activities have been prompted by the new mandates incumbent upon ESCAP as the regional arm of the United Nations, the others are of a continuous nature. In the concluding biennium of the plan period, the secretariat will focus on the following areas of cooperation that are of growing importance to the ESCAP members and associate members: capacity-building for sustainable development; environmental protection; integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making; energy development and management, with special emphasis on the energy-environment nexus; mineral resource assessment, development and management, with emphasis on policy orientation and investment promotion; land-use planning and management; assessment and integrated development and management of water resources; natural disaster reduction; space technology applications for sustainable development, including remote sensing and geographic information systems; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; environmentally friendly crop protection and promotion of a balanced use of fertilizers and pesticides; assessment of demographic change in the environmental context; environment database development within the framework of the ESCAP Statistical Information System (ESIS); and environmentally sound and sustainable rural and urban development.

7. As most, if not all, of the activities require a truly interdisciplinary approach in the course of their implementation, the secretariat intends to maintain and strengthen coordination with other United Nations bodies and convention secretariats.

Activities:

2.1 International cooperation

(e) External relations:

2-1-101 Cooperation with and support to other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies and organizations at the international and regional levels on matters relating to all aspects of the subprogramme

2-1-102 Technical and substantive support to the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), Typhoon Committee, Panel on Tropical Cyclones, Mekong River Commission, and others

2.2 Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

2-2-101 Six reports to the Commission on the progress of activities in environment and sustainable development (1996, 1997)

2-2-102 Fourteen reports to the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on selected issues in relation to the implementation of Agenda 21 (1996, 1997)

(b) Substantive services:

2-2-201 Servicing of the Commission sessions (1996, 1997)

2-2-202 Servicing of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (1996, 1997)

2-2-203 Servicing of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the ESCAP Regional Space Applications Programme for Development (1996, 1997)

(c) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

2-2-301 Energy infrastructure and pricing policies (1997)

2-2-302 Working party of senior geologists (1997)

2-2-303 Sustainable development of water resources (1996)

2-2-304 Methodology for environmental planning and assessment (1997)

2-2-305 Policies on integration of space technology applications with sustainable development planning (1996)

2-2-306 Interlinkages between environment, morbidity and health

2.3 Published material

(a) Recurrent publications:

2-3-101 Environment News (quarterly)

2-3-102 Environmental News Briefing (monthly)

2-3-103 ESCAP Energy News (biannual)

2-3-104 Energy Resources Development Series (1997)

2-3-105 Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific 1993-1994 (1996)

2-3-106 Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region — series (1996, 1997)

2-3-107 Mineral Concentration and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in Asia and the Pacific — series (1996)

2-3-108 Urban and Environmental Geology — series (1996, 1997)

2-3-109 Implications of the new ocean regime deriving from the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1997)

2-3-110 Water Resources Journal (quarterly)

2-3-111 Confluence (biannual)

2-3-112 Water Resources Series (1996, 1997)

2-3-113 Space Technology Applications Newsletter (former Remote Sensing Newsletter) (quarterly)

2-3-114 Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal (biannual)

2-3-115 Development Papers (1996)

2-3-116 Agro-chemicals News in Brief (6 in 1996, 6 in 1997)

2-3-117 RISS: Regional Information Support Service on Agro-chemicals (13 in 1996, 13 in 1997)

2-3-118 Calendar of Meetings on Agro-chemicals (quarterly)

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

2-3-201 Proceedings of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (1996)

2-3-202 Agenda 21 and the challenges for the Asian and Pacific region (1997)

2-3-203 Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1996)

2-3-204 Regional implementation of the convention on desertification (1996, 1997)

2-3-205 Promoting sustainable development: methodologies, approaches and assessment (1996)

2-3-206 Ecological tourism development (1996)

2-3-207 Integrated resource planning: status and potential in Asian countries (related to electricity (1996) and natural gas (1997))

2-3-208 Energy efficiency centres in the Asian and Pacific region (1996)

2-3-209 Studies on community participation in the implementation of environmental regulations in the electric power sector (1997)

2-3-210 Renewable sources of energy supply and environmental management through entrepreneurial development (1996)

2-3-211 Mineral resources assessment, development and management (1997)

2-3-212 Environment management of mineral resources development in the Asian and Pacific region (1997)

2-3-213 Geology for land-use planning and environmental management (1996)

2-3-214 Marine environment and non-living marine resources development (1996)

2-3-215 Water resources of member countries and demand by user sectors — Phase IV (1997)

2-3-216 Review of sustainable development of water resources in Asia and the Pacific (1997)

2-3-217 Guidelines on standardization of geographic information systems (GIS) (1996)

2-3-218 Space technology and applications in Asia and the Pacific: a compendium (2nd edition) (1997)

2-3-219 Proceedings of meetings of remote sensing and GIS for environment and natural resources management (1996, 1997)

2-3-220 Proceedings of meetings on space applications for sustainable development (1996)

2-3-221 Modalities for integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1997)

2-3-222 Modelling and simulation of macroeconomic systems, with focus on strategic policy variables (1996)

2-3-223 Study on the socio-economic implications of introducing ozone preservation substances and technologies (1996)

2-3-224 Population and environment (1996)

2-3-225 Environmental protection and urban development in secondary cities (1997)

2-3-226 Guidelines for environmentally sound land-use policies (1996)

2-3-227 Compilation of training material on healthy cities (1996)

2-3-228 Study on economic aspects of the use of less hazardous pesticides and integrated pest management

2-3-229 Report of workshop on economic aspects of the use of less hazardous pesticides and integrated pest management (1997)

2-3-230 Supply, marketing, distribution and use of fertilizers (1996, 1997)

2-3-231 Directory of sources of fertilizer-related information (1996)

2-3-232 Proceedings of seminars on environmentally sound development and management of fertilizer (1996, 1997)

(c) Technical material:

2-3-301 Database and modelling for environmental resource accounting, planning and assessment in the Asian and Pacific region within the framework of the ESIS and EBIS database management systems

2-3-302 Maintenance and update of sectoral energy demand database and analysis of the energy situation in Asia

2-3-303 Maintenance and update of energy planning software

2-3-304 Maintenance and update of the regional information services database on remote sensing and GIS (1997)

2-3-305 Provision of ad hoc information on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (1996, 1997)

2-3-306 Maintenance and update of database on pesticides and the environment (1996, 1997)

2-3-307 Maintenance and update of database on agro-chemicals and the environment (1996, 1997)

2.4 Information materials and services

(a) Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

2-4-101 Promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development

(b) Exhibits and other visual materials:

2-4-201 Exhibits and materials for World Water Day and International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day (1996, 1997)

2.5 Operational activities

(a) Advisory services:

2-5-101 Promotion of implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, as follow-up to Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States; and ecological tourism development, and citizen reports on the environment

2-5-102 Capacity-building for implementation of environmental conventions and relevant international conventions on hazardous waste management control, and for promotion of waste audits

2-5-103 Community participation and asset creation through coastal environmental management, and evaluation and impact assessment of sustainable development and technical assistance in coastal areas

2-5-104 Energy development, conservation and management policy, environmental impact and risk assessment of energy systems, energy resource options and technologies (gas, coal, power, biogas, etc.)

2-5-105 Promotion of applications of new and renewable sources of energy, energy mixes (solar, wind, geothermal, etc.), and rural energy supply (integrated energy and environmental issues)

2-5-106 Power system planning and management, including the integrated resource planning, efficiency and environmental aspects

2-5-107 Mineral exploration and environmental management of mineral resources development

2-5-108 Mineral policy and strategies for resource development, and mineral economics, legislation and investment promotion

2-5-109 Environmental geology and geology for land-use planning

2-5-110 Integrated water resources development and management, strengthening of programmes for protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems, and efficient management of urban water resources and systems; mitigation of water-related natural disasters

2-5-111 Space technology applications for sustainable development, with emphasis on policy issues, and institution-building and application of GIS and remote sensing for environment and natural resources management

2-5-112 Strengthening of national capabilities in space applications for development, with special emphasis on remote sensing and related GIS applications

2-5-113 Integration of environmental considerations in economic decision-making, including modelling and simulation of the macroeconomic system

2-5-114 Strengthening and survey of national/subregional efforts for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and associated capacity-building (1996, 1997)

2-5-115 Population and environment

2-5-116 CITYNET (Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements), promotion of NGO/city cooperation

2-5-117 TRISHNET (Network of Research, Training and Information Institutes for Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific), promotion of participatory urban environment research

2-5-118 Promotion and development of pesticide alternatives and strengthening of fertilizer information databases and effective legislation

(b) Group training, including seminars, workshops and fellowships:

2-5-201 Regional action programme for environmentally sound and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, and capacity-building for implementation of environmental conventions, including global climate change

2-5-202 Involvement of major groups in environmental awareness and management, with special reference to the private sector

2-5-203 Community participation and asset-creation through coastal environmental management

2-5-204 Resource conservation and energy efficiency; new and renewable sources of energy with emphasis on rural energy supply, including biogas

2-5-205 Energy resource options and technologies (coal technology, gas pricing, infrastructure, etc.), and investment round-tables on natural gas (1996, 1997)

2-5-206 Power system planning and management, including energy/environment interface

2-5-207 Mineral exploration techniques and evaluation methodologies for resource assessment, and environmental management of mineral resources development

2-5-208 Economic geology, mineral resource economics, legislation, and investment promotion in mineral exploration and mining

2-5-209 Geological factors in land-use planning and resource accounting

2-5-210 Integrated marine policies and non-living marine resources assessment and development

2-5-211 Water pricing, water saving and economic use of water, and TCDC group trainings on assessment, integrated and sustainable development, and protection of water resources and aquatic ecosystems

2-5-212 Investment promotion for water and sanitation, women's role in water for sustainable development, and natural hazard reduction

2-5-213 Implementation of the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Action Plan on, and Strategy for Regional Cooperation in, Space Applications for Sustainable Development: regional space applications programme

2-5-214 Remote sensing and GIS for land and sea resources management, and for tropical ecosystem monitoring

2-5-215 Strengthening of national capabilities in space applications for development with special emphasis on remote sensing and related GIS applications

2-5-216 Monitoring, mapping and sampling techniques for environment and natural resources management

2-5-217 Integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making, including modelling and simulation of macroeconomic systems

2-5-218 Assessment of the establishment of a regional cooperative policy mechanism to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including TECHTRANS exhibitions (1997)

2-5-219 Population and environment

2-5-220 Promotion of healthy cities and settlements upgrading (1996, 1997)

2-5-221 Environmental protection and urban development in secondary cities (1997)

2-5-222 Environmentally friendly concepts of crop protection and development and management of agro-chemicals in support of sustainable agricultural development

2.6 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

2-6-001 Collaboration with and inputs to the United Nations ACC machinery and other bodies, organizations and departments within the United Nations system on activities relating to the subprogramme

2-6-002 Organizing and servicing of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

2-6-003 Organizing and servicing of Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific

2-6-004 Organizing and servicing of the Task Force on the Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 3: Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

Current situation and orientation:

1. Mass poverty, despite the region's impressive economic growth and structural change, remains and is likely to continue at high levels in the ESCAP region during this decade. Current estimates indicate that some 800 million persons are living below the poverty line in the region, with half that number living under the particularly abject conditions of extreme poverty. Those numbers represent approximately three-fourths of the world's absolute poor. Experience has shown that rapid economic growth, by itself, does not guarantee the elimination or significant reduction of poverty. A holistic approach to economic and social development, with poverty alleviation as its focus, is therefore needed in the region.

2. The primary objectives of subprogramme 3 are to increase the understanding and improve the quality and availability of data and analyses of poverty trends, issues and problems, as well as to improve national capabilities in enhancing the quality of social services to meet the basic needs of the poor in Asia and the Pacific. During the first two bienniums of the medium-term plan period, those objectives were met through a series of parliamentary, research, information and technical assistance activities. Particular emphasis was given to mobilizing government action through the adoption of the following regional plans of action: Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as revised in 1994; Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons; Regional Action Plan on Urbanization; Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific; and Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development.

3. The proposed activities for 1996-1997 will focus on providing assistance to member countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty through economic growth, investment to increase the productivity of the poor, improved access to income-earning opportunities, and enhancement of the quality of life through improved social service delivery systems. Particular attention will be given to providing support in the implementation of the above-mentioned regional plans of action. The work programme includes a complementary set of parliamentary, research, information and operational activities which will address key issues, including the impact of macroeconomic liberalization on poverty alleviation; social security and services for the poor; human resources development for the poor; population; urbanization; rural development; women in development; and the impact of technology on the poor.

4. The work will be carried out under the guidance of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, which normally meets annually. ESCAP will also provide substantive services to the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, which will be convened in 1997, in lieu of the above-mentioned Committee, to discuss follow-up of the results of the World Summit for Social Development.

Activities:

3.1 International cooperation

(e) External relations:

3-1-101 Cooperation with and support to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations outside the United Nations system on matters relating to the subprogramme

3.2 Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

3-2-101 Report to the Commission on issues in poverty alleviation (1996, 1997)

3-2-102 Annual report to the Commission on implementation of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific (1996, 1997)

3-2-103 Report to the Commission on the mid-point review of progress in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1997)

3-2-104 Report to the Commission on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (1996)

3-2-105 Reports to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development (4 in 1996)

3-2-106 Report to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization (1996)

3-2-107 Reports to the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (3 in 1997)

(b) Substantive services:

3-2-201 Substantive servicing of the Commission (1996, 1997)

3-2-202 Substantive servicing of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development (1996)

3-2-203 Substantive servicing of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (1997)

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

3-2-301 Ad hoc expert group meeting on phase III of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region and related reporting (1996)

3-2-302 Ad hoc expert group meeting on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and related reporting (1997)

3-2-303 Ad hoc expert group meeting on analysis of women's role in family planning management and related reporting (1996)

3-2-304 Ad hoc expert group meeting in preparation for the 1998 Ministerial Conference on Urbanization and related reporting (1997)

3-2-305 Ad hoc expert group meeting on regional follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and related reporting (1996)

3-2-306 Ad hoc expert group meeting on review of implementation of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and related reporting (1997)

3.3 Published material

(a) Recurrent publications:

3-3-101 Human Resources Development Newsletter (biannual)

3-3-102 Social Development Newsletter (biannual)

3-3-103 Asia-Pacific Population Journal (quarterly)

3-3-104 Population Headliners (12 in 1996, 12 in 1997)

3-3-105 Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives (quarterly)

3-3-106 WINAP Newsletter (biannual)

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

3-3-201 Impact of macroeconomic liberalization on economic growth and poverty alleviation (1996)

3-3-202 Analysis of programmes for alleviating poverty at the local level (1997)

3-3-203 Guidelines for implementing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region (1996)

3-3-204 Policies on emerging social issues in Asia and the Pacific (1996, 1997)

3-3-205 Social security for the poor in the ESCAP region (1996)

3-3-206 Policies and programmes for strengthening the role of the family in providing social protection (1997)

3-3-207 Directory of centres of excellence for human resources development in the ESCAP region (1996)

3-3-208 Registration procedures for non-governmental organizations working for human resources development (1996)

3-3-209 Innovative approaches to poverty alleviation through the planning and delivery of human resources development services in Asia and the Pacific (1996)

3-3-210 Policies and programmes for the development of human resources development among youth (1997)

3-3-211 Approaches to community-based drug demand reduction in the ESCAP region (1997)

3-3-212 Approaches to community-based HIV/AIDS prevention in the ESCAP region (1997)

3-3-213 Training manual on community-based responses to critical social issues: poverty, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS (1997)

3-3-214 Management of self-help organizations of people with disabilities (1996)

3-3-215 Production and distribution of assistive devices for people with disabilities (1997)

3-3-216 Approaches to the development of comprehensive national policies on ageing (1997)

3-3-217 Trends in fertility and family planning for the ESCAP region (1997)

3-3-218 Intraregional migration: monitoring report (1996, 1997)

3-3-219 Labour force and manpower projection in the ESCAP region (1997)

3-3-220 Role of family dynamics in population (1997)

3-3-221 Demographic aspects of women and poverty (1997)

3-3-222 Compendium of inter-agency work programmes on rural poverty alleviation (1996)

3-3-223 The impact of market reforms and price liberalization on agriculture and rural development (1996)

3-3-224 Market-generated rural employment for rural poverty alleviation (1997)

3-3-225 Manual on rural poverty alleviation through success case replications (1997)

3-3-226 Increasing people's participation in urban governance (1997)

3-3-227 Experiences in urban community-based savings and credit systems (1996)

3-3-228 Directory of non-governmental organizations on women (1996)

3-3-229 Improving the status of women in poverty (1997)

3-3-230 Promotion of town and village small industries for employment generation and poverty alleviation in rural areas (1997)

(c) Technical material:

3-3-301 Training material on the planning and delivery of human resources development services for the poor (1996)

3-3-302 Data bank on human resources development policies and programmes within the framework of the ESIS and EBIS database management systems (1997)

3-3-303 Training material to promote skills development and employment for youth (1997)

3-3-304 POPIN data bank products and services within the framework of the ESIS and EBIS database management systems (1996, 1997)

3-3-305 POPIN telecommunications and multi-media products and services (1996, 1997)

3-3-306 Demographic data sheet (1996, 1997)

3-3-307 Regional database on women in development within the framework of the ESIS and EBIS database management systems (1996, 1997)

3.4 Information materials and services

(a) Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

3-4-101 Information materials for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (1997)

3-4-102 Information materials to mark the mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1997)

3.5 Operational activities

(a) Advisory services:

3-5-101 Impact of macroeconomic liberalization on economic growth and poverty alleviation

3-5-102 Alleviating poverty through local-level programmes

3-5-103 Support for implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

3-5-104 Support for implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region

3-5-105 Support for implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons

3-5-106 Support for implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

3-5-107 Support for market-generated rural employment

3-5-108 Support for implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and support to urban forums

3-5-109 Support for implementation of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific

(b) Group training, including seminars, workshops and fellowships:

3-5-201 Impact of macroeconomic liberalization on economic growth and poverty alleviation

3-5-202 Exchange of experience on poverty alleviation through local-level programmes

3-5-203 Strengthening national capabilities in implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region

3-5-204 Promoting social protection to meet the basic needs of the poor

3-5-205 Strengthening the role of the family in providing social protection

3-5-206 Promoting human resources development policies and programmes

3-5-207 Improving the utilization of human resources in the public sector

3-5-208 Promoting gender equity in human resources development

3-5-209 Promoting employment and skills development among low-income youth and youth participation in development

3-5-210 Establishing and strengthening community-based drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes

3-5-211 Improving the quality of life of specific disadvantaged groups through innovative policies and programmes

3-5-212 Strengthening of population policies

3-5-213 Improvement of demographic analysis

3-5-214 Strengthening of the Asia-Pacific POPIN Network and projects

3-5-215 Target group-oriented policies and programmes for rural and urban poverty alleviation

3-5-216 Off-farm and non-farm employment generation and its impact on rural poverty alleviation

3-5-217 Market-generated employment for rural poverty alleviation

3-5-218 Ad hoc expert group meeting on rural poverty alleviation under economic liberalization regime

3-5-219 Participatory and gender-sensitive urban planning and management

3-5-220 Land management for equitable access to land

3-5-221 Alleviation of poverty among women

3-5-222 Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific

3-5-223 Enhancement of technological capabilities of small village and town industries for increased competitiveness

3.6 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

3-6-001 Organizing and servicing of the inter-agency task force on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

3-6-002 Organizing and servicing of the Asia-Pacific Inter-organizational Task Force on Disability-related Concerns

3-6-003 Organizing and servicing of the regional Inter-agency Committee on Poverty Alleviation

3-6-004 Organizing and servicing of the regional Inter-organizational Committee on Urbanization

3-6-005 Technical and substantive support to the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, a regional institute of ESCAP

3-6-006 Collaboration with and inputs to the ACC machinery and other bodies, organizations and departments within the United Nations system on activities relating to the subprogramme

3-6-007 Organizing and servicing of the Inter-agency Task Force on the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 4: Transport and communications

Current situation and orientation:

1. The programmed activities are designed for (a) identification of the changing problems of transport, communications and tourism in the region and the working out of feasible solutions; (b) coordination and harmonization of transport, communications and tourism-related activities undertaken in the region by the United Nations organizations and its specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations at the subregional and regional levels; (c) strengthening of interregional cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) region, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region; (d) implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific; and (e) implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

2. The regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific was developed through extensive consultations with the members and associate members of the Commission and was subsequently endorsed by the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held in June 1992, and by the Commission at its forty-ninth session in 1993. The Meeting of Ministers decided to keep the regional action programme open-ended to take account of changes in social, political and economic development trends. As a consequence, it has been reviewed and amended on an annual basis. The same approach has been taken in the development of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

3. The subprogramme provides assistance in the development of transport and communications related to the specific needs of groups of countries, owing to the region's geographical diversity (including the archipelagic, land-locked and riverine countries), as well as different levels of economic development of the

countries (including newly industrializing economies, disadvantaged economies in transition and the least developed countries). At the same time, there are common problems identified in the region such as: lack of data and information; outdated legislative and commercial framework; insufficient investment and maintenance for infrastructure development; management and operational difficulties; lack of adequately trained human resources; lack of integrated planning and coordination among different modes of transport; the slow pace of transfer of technology and administrative management skills; lack of environmental and safety concern in transport; and inadequate rural transport and infrastructure.

4. Recognizing that economic growth is one of the major contributory factors to poverty alleviation, improving the quality of life of the population and sustainable development, and that the provision of transport and communications infrastructure and services is a key requirement for economic growth, the subprogramme has been aligned to provide maximum support to the economic growth of the countries in the region. The other significant aspects of the subprogramme are: the analysis and recognition of the changing problems of infrastructure development needs that are essential for the sustained economic and social growth and development in the region; and the strengthening of inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the field of transport and communications at the regional level.

Activities:

4.1 International cooperation

(e) External relations:

4-1-101 Cooperation with and support to other governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system on matters related to the subprogramme

4.2 Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

4-2-101 Report to the Economic and Social Council on phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1996)

4-2-102 Annual reports to the Commission on the progress of work carried out under this subprogramme (1996 and 1997)

4-2-103 Report to the Committee on review of issues, policies and trends in transport, communications and tourism development (1997)

4-2-104 Report to the Committee on evaluation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1997)

4-2-105 Report to the Committee on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1997)

4-2-106 Report to the Committee on Asian land transport infrastructure development (1997)

4-2-107 Report to the Committee on environmental and safety issues in transport (1997)

4-2-108 Report to the Committee on private sector participation in the development and operation of transport and communications (1997)

4-2-109 Report to the Committee on tourism development policy and planning (1997)

4-2-110 Reports to the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure (3 in 1996)

4-2-111 Reports to the Intergovernmental Meeting on Tourism Development (1996)

(b) Substantive services:

4-2-201 Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (1996, 1997)

4-2-202 Substantive servicing of the Committee on Transport and Communications (1997)

4-2-203 Substantive servicing of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure (1996)

4-2-204 Substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Tourism Development (1996)

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

4-2-301 Expert group meeting on financing and administration of rural infrastructure (1996)

4.3 Published material

(a) Recurrent publications:

4-3-101 Review of Developments in Transport, Communications and Tourism (1997)

4-3-102 Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (1996 and 1997)

4-3-103 Decade News (2 issues in 1996)

4-3-104 ESCAP Tourism Review (annual)

4-3-105 ESCAP Tourism Newsletter (biannual)

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

4-3-201 Guidelines on environmentally friendly transport (1997)(XB)

4-3-202 Prospects for container shipping and port development (1996)(XB)

4-3-203 Guidelines for private sector participation in ports (1996)(XB)

4-3-204 Transport of hazardous goods (1997)(XB)

4-3-205 Guidelines for multimodal transport legislation (1997)(XB)

4-3-206 Financing and administration of rural infrastructure development (1997)

4-3-207 Training of trainers manual for inland water transport (1996)(XB)

4-3-208 Information requirements for the management of inland water transport (1997)(XB)

4-3-209 Highway network development in the Asian republics (1996)(XB)

4-3-210 Land transport corridors between Central Asia and Europe (1996)(XB)

4-3-211 Trans-Asian railway route requirements (1996)(XB)

4-3-212 Revised Asian Highway map (1997)(XB)

4-3-213 Tourism development in countries along the Mekong River (1997)(XB)

4-3-214 Policy issues for expansion of tourism, strengthening of regional cooperation and promotion of intraregional tourism (1996)(XB)

4-3-215 Shipping policies in Asia and the Pacific

(c) Technical material:

4-3-301 Transport policy planning models (1997)(XB)

4-3-302 Monitoring and coordination database in support of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific and New Delhi action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific (1997)(XB)

4-3-303 Format and software development for Asian Highway database (1997)

4.5 Operational activities

(a) Advisory services:

4-5-101 Financial and economic evaluation of transport infrastructure development

4-5-102 Commercialization and private sector participation in transport

4-5-103 Port operations

4-5-104 Multimodal transport, freight forwarding and logistics

4-5-105 Development and management of transport

4-5-106 Strengthening of national capabilities in the expansion of tourism

(b) Group training, including seminars, workshops and fellowships:

4-5-201 Transport policy and planning

4-5-202 Multimodal transport, freight forwarding and logistics

4-5-203 Environment and safety in transport

4-5-204 Development of rural infrastructure

4-5-205 Development of small ports and inter-island shipping services

4-5-206 Commercialization and private sector participation in transport

4-5-207 Financial and economic evaluation of transport infrastructure development

4-5-208 Facilitation of maritime transport

4-5-209 Development and management of transport

4-5-210 Tourism development

4.6 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

4-6-001 Collaboration with and inputs to the ACC machinery, other bodies, organizations and departments within the United Nations system on matters relating to the subprogramme

4-6-002 Organization and servicing of inter-agency meetings relating to phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific and New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 5: Statistics

Current situation and orientation:

1. For the region as a whole, the level of statistical development and the availability of statistical information have registered improvements, while at the same time user requirements for statistics have increased markedly, especially in newer fields of interest calling for disaggregation by gender and other criteria. Moreover, statistical capabilities and data availability continue to vary enormously among the countries of the region. In the field of information technology, particularly, the gap between the more advanced and the less developed countries appears to be widening further.

2. The Statistics subprogramme will continue to assist member countries and groups of countries in developing and improving their capability to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize the data needed for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans and policies; improve the availability of data on the region and its constituent countries, through the gathering from member countries of demographic, social, economic and other statistics, and through their maintenance in a form suitable for retrieval and their dissemination through various means; and foster the utilization of modern information technology in the public sector in order to strengthen the ability at both central and subnational levels to plan and manage economic and social development.

3. In the implementation of the subprogramme, due consideration will be given to the priority statistical needs of the work programmes relating to regional economic cooperation, environment and sustainable development, and poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development, especially as expressed in regional plans of action in various fields. The statistical implications of global initiatives and themes such as the Agenda for Development, Agenda 21 and sustainable human development will also be taken into account.

4. In the biennium 1996-1997, stress will be placed on developing the Committee on Statistics as the focus of regional statistical development, in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission. This will entail greater involvement in the development, implementation and monitoring of statistical methodologies and standards, and a higher profile in the coordination of technical cooperation in statistics in the region.

5. Subject-matter emphases will include the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) and the development of statistics on services; intensification of work on gender statistics and on the development and utilization of data on poverty; initial preparations for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses; and the further improvement of environment statistics and environmental and natural resource accounting.

6. Statistical information and public-sector computerization work during the biennium will increasingly exploit enhanced information technology infrastructure both within and outside ESCAP. Effort will be concentrated on fully operationalizing the ESCAP Statistical Information System (ESIS), including provision of on-line access, and on promoting electronic interchange and networking among national statistical offices of the region.

Activities:

5.1 International cooperation

(e) External relations:

5-1-101 Cooperation with and support to other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on matters related to the subprogramme

5.2 Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

5-2-101 Report to the Commission on the progress of work carried out under the subprogramme (1997)

5-2-102 Five reports to the Committee on Statistics (1996)

(b) Substantive services:

5-2-201 Substantive servicing of the Committee on Statistics (1996)

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related work:

5-2-301 Working group of statistical experts (1997)

5.3 Published material

(a) Recurrent publications:

5-3-101 Statistical Newsletter (quarterly)

5-3-102 Government Computerization Newsletter (biannual)

5-3-103 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (1996, 1997)

5-3-104 Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (1996, 1997)

5-3-105 Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly)

5-3-106 Asia-Pacific in Figures (1996, 1997)

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

5-3-201 Statistical profiles by subregion (1996, 1997)

5-3-202 Regional compendium of environmental statistics (1997)

5-3-203 Statistical charts on thematic topics (1996, 1997)

5-3-204 Technical publications on socio-economic and environment statistics (1996, 1997)

(c) Technical material:

5-3-301 Developing and maintaining the ESCAP Statistical Information System, linked to the United Nations Economic and Social Information System (1996, 1997). Ad hoc statistical information services will be provided through conventional means and on-line access. It is also planned to distribute data on diskettes and/or CD-ROM.

5.5 Operational activities

(a) Advisory services:

5-5-101 Organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services

5-5-102 Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA); various aspects of economic statistics

5-5-103 Various aspects of social and demographic statistics

5-5-104 Electronic interchange and networking, and design and development of government information systems

(b) Group training, including seminars, workshops and fellowships:

5-5-201 Improved management and organization of national statistical services

5-5-202 Various aspects of economic statistics, including implementation of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) and International Comparison Programme (ICP)

5-5-203 Various aspects of social and demographic statistics

5-5-204 Environment statistics and environmental accounting

5-5-205 Design and development of government information systems

5.6 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

5-6-001 Coordination with and inputs to the ACC machinery and other bodies, organizations and departments within the United Nations system on various fields of statistical activities

5-6-002 Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), a regional institute of ESCAP

Subprogramme 6: Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

Current situation and orientation:

1. The programmed activities are designed in context of the objectives of the subprogramme as set out in the revised medium-term plan, 1992-1997 as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214 and further revised as endorsed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fourth session. The activities are directed at meeting the specific needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries which face special difficulties in the process of development and aim at providing support to these countries in their efforts at accelerating the pace of economic and social development so as to enable them to join the mainstream of economic dynamism in the ESCAP region.

2. Among the common structural characteristics of the least developed countries is a narrow domestic resource base with the bulk of the workforce engaged in subsistence agriculture. The domestic saving rate is generally low and consequently there is a heavy dependence on external assistance and remittances for financing investment and imports. Exports comprise mainly a few primary and semi-processed products, the prices and earnings for which are unstable. Human resources development levels are low, with the majority of people deprived of minimum levels of health care, education, housing and social amenities. Shortages of trained manpower and inadequate physical and institutional infrastructure pose serious constraints, while increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters have caused disruptions to the development process in many of these economies.

3. The main orientation of work for the least developed countries will be to assist these countries in achieving the goals as set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. As mandated by the Commission in its resolution 49/8 of 29 April 1993, the secretariat is undertaking a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action to assess the achievements that have been made and to recommend measures for more effective implementation of the Programme. The focus of work for the biennium will be towards enhancing effectiveness of actions and measures at the national level, with emphasis on providing support in the implementation of ongoing economic reforms in the least developed countries which are aimed at improving macroeconomic management, relaxing direct controls, enhancing domestic resource mobilization, promoting private sector development, reforming public enterprises,

attracting a larger inflow of foreign investment and technology, and instituting more effective measures to redress social issues, particularly with regard to alleviating poverty, human resources development and protecting the environment. Attention will also be given to the question of adequacy of resource flows to the least developed countries, including issues related to the quality of such resources, matching assistance to needs, and effective utilization of aid on the part of recipient least developed countries.

4. Among major constraints to growth in the Pacific island developing countries are small domestic markets, lack of diversity in resources (both natural endowments and human resources), heavy dependence on imports, diseconomies of scale in the provision of infrastructural services, and high concentration of exports on a few commodities, which increases trade vulnerability. The activities will thus focus on analyses of the special problems and constraints faced by these countries in their efforts to improve their economic performance through liberalization, deregulation and increased and more diversified trade and investment, as well as related capacity-building. The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries will provide the forum for the dialogue and exchange of experience between these countries and the rest of Asia. These activities will be complemented by more specific technical cooperation and advice. The work is mandated through Commission resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992, annex IX, terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, Commission resolution 48/9 on strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries and the recommendation for emphasis in the work of the Special Body by the Commission at its fiftieth session.

5. The land-locked countries of the ESCAP region are confronted with particular problems of transit and transport. They depend on the surface transport and transit facilities and services in neighbouring countries, involving additional freight costs, time and risks in the conduct of their external trade. Hence the orientation of work will be on reviewing the special problems of transit trade and of transport in land-locked countries and recommending suitable measures for solving these problems in accordance with international legal instruments. The development of freight forwarding and multimodal transport will contribute positively to the national economy and export earnings of the land-locked countries.

Activities:

6.1 International cooperation

(e) External relations:

6-1-101 Liaison and cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on issues related to the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island developing countries in support of the programme of work

6.2 Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

6-2-101 Report to the Commission of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (1997)

6-2-102 Report to the Commission of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (1997)

6-2-103 Report to the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (1997)

6-2-104 Reports to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (2 in 1997)

(b) Substantive services:

6-2-201 Substantive servicing of the Commission sessions (1996, 1997)

6-2-202 Substantive servicing of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, third session (1997)

6-2-203 Substantive servicing of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, fourth session (1997)

6.3 Published material

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

6-3-201 Follow-up to the mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1997)

6-3-202 Overcoming institutional constraints of least developed countries in implementing macroeconomic policies (1996)

6-3-203 Increasing efficiency in resource management in the least developed countries (1997)

6-3-204 Population and development in the least developed countries (1997)

6-3-205 Island developing countries: policy and institution-building issues associated with increased trade and investment, particularly with East and South-East Asia (1997)

6-3-206 A manual for the design and implementation of economic stabilization, liberalization and deregulation initiatives in the Pacific island developing countries (1996)

6-3-207 Study on shipping and port capacities in the island developing countries (1997)

6-3-208 Development of policy options for replacing ageing ships in the Pacific island countries (1997)

6.5 Operational activities

(a) Advisory services:

6-5-101 Economic reforms in the least developed countries

6-5-102 Economic and financial management in Pacific island developing countries

6-5-103 Demographic issues in the Pacific island developing countries

6-5-104 Institutional capability-building, including private sector development for the promotion of industrial investment and technology transfer

(b) Group training, including seminars, workshops and fellowships:

6-5-201 Follow-up to the mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1996)

6-5-202 Regional seminar on improving the access of women to formal credit and financial institutions in selected least developed countries (1996)

6-5-203 Overcoming institutional constraints of least developed countries in implementing macroeconomic policies (1996)

6-5-204 Increasing efficiency in resource management in the least developed countries (1997)

6-5-205 Policy and institution-building for enhanced trade and investment in the Pacific island developing countries (1996, 1997)

6-5-206 Economic stabilization, liberalization and deregulation in the Pacific island developing countries (1996)

6-5-207 Demographic issues in the Pacific island developing countries (1997)

6-5-208 Development of freight forwarding and multimodal transport in the land-locked countries (1996)

6-5-209 Policy reorientation and capability-building for effective industrial and technological development, including promotion of industrial investment and technology transfer (1997)

6.6 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

6-6-001 Coordination with and inputs to the ACC machinery, other bodies, organizations and departments within the United Nations system on activities related to the subprogramme

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. In the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-first session, there are no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations over and above the amount budgeted to cover the substance and backstopping activities already envisaged in the programmes of work, 1994-1995 and 1996-1997. Should any additional costs arise, they would be offset by programme support cost income received.

2. Regular budget resources will be requested in the programme budget cost estimates for the biennium 1998-1999 in order to implement the activities listed in paragraph 4, subparagraphs (a) and (e) of resolution 51/2 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific.

3. For 9 of the 12 resolutions adopted at the fifty-first session of the Commission, extrabudgetary resources will be sought for implementation of the requested activities.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Subsidiary body and officers	*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development	Jakarta 7-14 June 1994	E/ESCAP/988
Chairperson: Mien Sugandhi (Indonesia)		
Vice-Chairpersons: Rosemary Crowley (Australia)		
Sarwari Rahman (Bangladesh)		
Pehin Dato Hj Awang Hussain (Brunei Darussalam)		
Keat Sukun (Cambodia)		
Chen Muhua (China)		
Tiriamate Ngatokorua (Cook Islands)		
Taufa Meraia Vakatale (Fiji)		
Basava Rajeswari (India)		
Shahla Habibi (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
Manae Kubota (Japan)		
Roza Kenzhetaeva (Kazakhstan)		
Beretitara Neeti (Kiribati)		
S.E.M. Soubanh Sritthirath (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		
Dato Napsiah Omar (Malaysia)		
Ismail Shafeeu (Maldives)		
Luckner Abner (Marshall Islands)		

[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairpersons: (*continued*)	Sizue Gibbons Yoma (Federated States of Micronesia)		
	U Win Naing (Myanmar)		
	Shailaja Acharya (Nepal)		
	Jenny Shipley (New Zealand)		
	O'Love Jacobsen (Niue)		
	Shahnaz Wazir Ali (Pakistan)		
	Anastasio Brobeson (Palau)		
	Andrew Posai (Papua New Guinea)		
	Leticia R. Shahani (Philippines)		
	Kim Young-Soon (Republic of Korea)		
	Aline K. Wong (Singapore)		
	Chandra A. Karunaratne (Sri Lanka)		
	Tirdpong Jayanandana (Thailand)		
	Faimalaga Luka (Tuvalu)		
	Sethy J. Regenvanu (Vanuatu)		
	Truong My Hoa (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	Laugalau Foisagaasina Eteuati-Shon (Samoa)		
Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific		Beijing 19-24 September 1994	E/ESCAP/985 and Corr.1
Chairperson:	Song Jian (China)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Abdual Moyeen Khan (Bangladesh)		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairpersons: (*continued*)	Didier Lombard (France)		
	Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi (India)		
	Harsono Wiryosumarto (Indonesia)		
	Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
	Hiroto Ishida (Japan)		
	Duangdy Outhachak (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		
	Jose Manuel Machado (Macau)		
	Datuk Law Hieng Ding (Malaysia)		
	Kunio D. Lemari (Marshall Islands)		
	Z. Batjardal (Mongolia)		
	Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah (Pakistan)		
	William Padolina (Philippines)		
	Yoon-Soo Sohn (Republic of Korea)		
	Misa Telefoni (Samoa)		
	Preecha Musikul (Thailand)		
Rapporteur:	Bhuwan Dutt (Fiji)		
Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development		Manila 12-18 October 1994	E/ESCAP/989 ST/ESCAP/1475
Chairperson:	Cielito F. Habito (Philippines)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Derenik H. Doumanian (Armenia)		
	Brian Howe (Australia)		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairpersons: (*continued*)	Chingiz Ragimov (Azerbaijan)		
	Abdul Moyeen Khan (Bangladesh)		
	Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussian (Brunei Darussalam)		
	Hao Jianxiu (China)		
	Mukul Wasnik (India)		
	Inten Soeweno (Indonesia)		
	Mahmood Asghari Azad (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
	Alesin Vladimir (Kazakhstan)		
	Soubanh Srithirath (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		
	Dato' Napsiah Omar (Malaysia)		
	Gombojav Erdene (Mongolia)		
	Shahnaz Wazir Ali (Pakistan)		
	John Teckwie (Papua New Guinea)		
	Shi-Hyung Kim (Republic of Korea)		
	Sergey G. Kiselev (Russian Federation)		
	Ch'ng Jit Koon (Singapore)		
	Phaithoon Kaeothong (Thailand)		
	S. Langi Kavaliku (Tonga)		
	Le Mai (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	Dudley Dissanayake (Sri Lanka)		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*
Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development		Second session Bangkok 24-28 October 1994	E/ESCAP/984
Chairperson:	Chu Tuan Nha (Viet Nam)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Zhong Shukong (China)		
	N.R. Krishnan (India)		
	Ricardo M. Umali (Philippines)		
	Saksit Tridech (Thailand)		
Rapporteur:	Fred M. Castro (Guam)		
Committee on Statistics		Ninth session Bangkok 28 November- 2 December 1994	E/ESCAP/995
Chairperson:	Frederick W.H. Ho (Hong Kong)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Timoci Bainimarama (Fiji)		
	Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury (Bangladesh)		
Rapporteur:	Romulo Virola (Philippines)		
Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation		Fourth session Bangkok 8-9 February 1995	E/ESCAP/979
Chairperson:	Herijanto Soeprapto (Indonesia)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Prak Leng (Cambodia)		
	K.B. Fernando (Sri Lanka)		
Rapporteur:	Moon-Hwan Kim (Republic of Korea)		
Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries		Second session Bangkok 17-19 April 1995	E/ESCAP/998
Chairperson:	Narayan Raj Tiwari (Nepal)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Bintang P. Simorangkir (Indonesia)		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairpersons: (*continued*)	George Maniuri (Vanuatu)		
Rapporteur:	Asim Ahmed (Maldives)		
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries		Third session Bangkok 20-21 April 1995	E/ESCAP/997
Chairperson:	Ahmed Ali (Fiji)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Somsakdi Chowprasert (Thailand)		
	Edward V. Drollet (Cook Islands)		
Rapporteur:	Akosita Fineanganofo (Tonga)		

Annex IV

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol.1, No. 1, June 1994	E.95.II.F.26
Computer Applications for Groundwater Assessment and Management (Water Resources Series No. 73)	E.94.II.F.8
Development Papers	
No. 16, *Human Resources Development: Effectiveness of Programme Delivery at the Local Level in Countries of the ESCAP Region*	E.94.II.F.11
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1995	E.95.II.F.10
Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XLIV, No. 1, June 1993	E.94.II.F.20
Vol. XLIV, No. 2, December 1993	E.94.II.F.21
Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (Energy Resources Development Series No. 34)	E.94.II.F.27
Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1988-1992	E/F.95.II.F.18
Industrial Development News for Asia and the Pacific, No. 22	E.94.II.F.23
Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific No. 28	E.94.II.F.12
Statistics Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXIV, No. 1, March 1994	E.94.II.F.22
Vol. XXIV, No. 2, June 1994	E.94.II.F.26
Vol. XXIV, No. 3, September 1994	E.95.II.F.27
Vol. XXIV, No. 4, December 1994	E.95.II.F.28
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1994	E/F.95.II.F.1
Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 64	E.94.II.F.25
Waste Recycling for Sustainable Development — The Case of Obsolete Oil and Gas Production Structures in Asia Pacific Waters (Overview), vol. 1	E.94.II.F.24

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/977	Review of recent economic and social developments: summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1995	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/978	Executive summary: strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/979	Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its fourth session	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/980 and Add.1	Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme: report of the Executive Secretary	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/981 and Corr.1	Implications of recent global and regional developments for the trade prospects of the region towards 2000 and beyond	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/982	Industrial and technological restructuring for greater regional integration: prospects and opportunities in the post-Uruguay Round era	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/983	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/984	Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its second session	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/985 and Corr.1	Report on the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, and follow-up	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/986	Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme: report of the Executive Secretary	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/987 and Corr.1	Environment and sustainable development: policy issues and important developments relevant to the subprogramme	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/988	Report on the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, and follow-up	8 (a)
E/ESCAP/989	Report on the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, and follow-up: report of the Executive Secretary	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/990	Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to poverty alleviation: report of the Executive Secretary	8 (c)
E/ESCAP/991	Policy issues and important developments relevant to poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development	8 (d)
E/ESCAP/992 and Corr.1	Report on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific: note by the Executive Secretary	8 (e)
E/ESCAP/993	Follow-up and implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions relevant to the subprogramme on transport and communications: report of the Executive Secretary	9 (a)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/994	Transport and communications: Revised Draft New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific	9 (b)
E/ESCAP/995	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session	10 (a)
E/ESCAP/996	Implementation of Commission resolution 50/5 on the status of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific: report of the Executive Secretary	10 (b)
E/ESCAP/997	Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its third session	11 (a)
E/ESCAP/998	Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries on its second session	11 (b)
E/ESCAP/999	Strengthening inter-organizational cooperation in promoting economic and social development in the region	12
E/ESCAP/1000	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	13
E/ESCAP/1001	Report of the Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin	13
E/ESCAP/1002	Report of the Typhoon Committee	13
E/ESCAP/1003	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	13
E/ESCAP/1004 and Corr.1	Implementation of the programme of work, 1994-1995	14 (a)
E/ESCAP/1005 and Corr.1	Proposed programme changes for 1995	14 (a)
E/ESCAP/1006	Tentative calendar of meetings, April 1995-March 1996	14 (a)
E/ESCAP/1007	Proposed programme of work and priorities, 1996-1997: proposals of the Executive Secretary	14 (b)
E/ESCAP/1008	Resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	14 (b)
E/ESCAP/1009 and Corr.1	Issues relevant to the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	15
E/ESCAP/1010	Organization of future sessions of the Commission	16
E/ESCAP/1011 and Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	17
E/ESCAP/1012	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-second session of the Commission	18
E/ESCAP/1013 and Add.1	Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission to include the Russian Federation in paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of the Commission	4

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Macau, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands and Palau.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional economic commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category I, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in category I may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed: and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in categories I and II may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories I and II on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category I will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in category II will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in category I or II either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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